



**Sally-Jane Heit**

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## Heit lights up the Ballroom

By CURT DAVIS

SALLY-JANE HEIT used to be a "little woman" — a housewife and mother in Washington, D.C. She has now gone from the nation's capital to capital comedy as Dorothy Loudon's narrow sister-in-law in *Ballroom* and as headliner of her own cabaret act at The Ballroom through March 3.

It is her experiences as a "typical American housewife" that provide her with fodder for our fun. The domestic, patriotic women embodied by Miss and Mrs. America, the pseudo-feminist, the bar single pushing too hard, the middle-aged woman caught between a rebellious daughter and a shocking mom, are all parts of Miss Heit's comic consciousness.

Miss Heit seems to have known all these women, and reconceived them for birth into her monologues. They are her children and she nurses them with affection and great warmth. We often laugh with them, often at,



**Sally-Jane Heit delivers fresh humor.**

but even when we laugh at, it's not derisively. They are all valid creations within a lifestyle of their own choosing. They live their lives, they are doing what they want to do, and Miss Heit is never condescending in value judgments. If Chaka Khan sings *I'm Every Woman*, Sally-Jane

Heit suburbanizes it.

Cleverness runs rampant, rising sometimes into scintillation, as in the case of *Nina's Mommy* and *Nina's Mommy's Mommy*. Caught between a college-age daughter and a swinging mother, this woman is a hilarious — and lonely — lady. But Heit keeps tight rein on her performance, and the lines in these sketches about Golda Meir and barking are the best of the evening.

She occasionally lights into song, much of which is original. The voice is acceptable, not always under control and not distinctive. Singing is not Miss Heit's long suit, but the comedy needs a break and she warbles sincerely enough to achieve that breathing spell. It is, one might say, musical relief.

With all this ability, with a profile that is a blend of Diana Ross and Capucine (does anyone remember Capucine, let alone her profile?), Sally-Jane Heit may have started her career late, but it should last for as long as she wants it.