



January 25, 2007

VOICE CHOICES

THOMAS ALLEN- A tough guy with Robert Mitchum curls and a drooping cigarette glances over his shoulder at another slab of beef, who, though seen in blurry focus, is clearly ripping open his own shirt. The figures in this ersatz gay tableau have been Exacto'd from two vintage paperback covers—the first stud was originally eyeing a woman entering a room, the second preparing to join a babe in a lake—and photographed with an old-school 4x5 camera. Allen carefully cuts around his figures and then hinges them up from the often worn-out covers, sometimes including the colored-edge bound pages or spines in his frame to act as floors, walls, or rumpled beds. Then comes atmospheric lighting and a mix of genres—a spaceman in a glass bubble helmet is menaced by a shimmying vixen whose shirt strains across her pert bosom—and these, cheap, luridly colored dioramas blossom into playful, open-ended melodramas. *Foley, 547 W 27th, 212-244-9081. Through March 3.*