

PHOTO BY CHRIS KOMATER



'High Noon'

ARMED WITH six-shooters, horse sense, and a trail of Quaker Oats, local conceptual artist Chris Komater humorously deconstructs Fred Zinnemann's 1952 classic western *High Noon* as a showdown between prevailing masculine and feminine stereotypes. Komater's dusty period piece (be it the 1850s or

the 1950s) is played out against an Old West backdrop that locates the sexes literally poles apart. Snippets of dialogue ricochet and collide across this sexual chasm from two rows of talking hats (speakers are hidden in Stetsons and baby bonnets). Men wax macho ("You've got nothing to worry about as long as I'm around") while women prepare the grub. Amid flickers of ambivalence and independence ("It takes more than big broad shoulders to make a man"), it was tumbleweed harassment ("I don't like anybody to put his hand on me unless I like him to...") and good old-fashioned violence (*slap!*) that once made for sure-fire family entertainment.

HARRY ROCHE

'High Noon.' By Chris Komater. Through Nov. 6. The LAB, 1807 Divisadero, S.F. (415) 346-4063.