

## **Broadway**

## Actress Tackles Issue

## Battered Wife Focus Of Film

NEW YORK — Valerie Harper is crusading to protect "battered wives" but admits attered husbands" also need help from battering wives.

battering wives.

The former star of Rhoda has been here arranging to film the story of a woman who's in prison for hiring a man to kill her battering husband. While visiting the prisoner in Indianapolis, Valerie heard a couple of husband-batterers talking.

"ALL I DID TO my husband was push

him," one wife said.
"Yeah," replied the other, "with some scissors."

"Some people think if the woman-had stabbed her husband she'd have been acquit-

ted." Valerie Harper said. She and her boyfriend and business associate Tony Cac-ciotti believe it will be a great dramatic role

But the idea that husbands also get abused

keeps intruding.
"Men use their fists — or their belts — but
women have great weaponry, too," Miss
Harper pointed out. "Their tongues. They can
say very cutting things."

MISS HARPER WAS heroine of a headline that said, "Loses Weight, Gains Mate." Cacciotti helped her reduce 20 pounds, then she fell in love with him.

"I strongly defend women who are sexually harassed in business — who go through the casting couch routine. But lately," she said, "I hear that men are now subjected to the same humiliation — from women."

## Midnight Earl

Carol Channing told me at Ann Miller's 57th birthday party at Bruno's that when she and Eddle Bracken take the national company of Sugar Bables on the road, "I won't do Ann's tap dances because I'm not a tap dancer. I do the soft shoe with George Burns, that's about all."

The road show will be tailored to fit Carol's style; she wants to do a dove dance, for example. Carol won't try to copy Ann in any way, "You can't clone Ann Miller," said Harry Rigby, producer with Terry Allen, "and if you tried, she'd sue you.

Mikhail Baryshnikov, the Russian Don Juan, answered questions after a preview of Baryshnikov on Broadway at the Russian Tea Room. When asked the difference between hallet and Broadway dancing, he hesitated and somebody saved the night by saying, "Shall we open the bar?" In the special, Misha suggests to Liza Minnelli that they do a Chorus Liza says "You ask a lot."

Line finale; Liza says, "You ask a lot." Misha responds, "You don't ask, you don't

get!"
TODAY'S BEST LAUGH: "Last year I
taught my son to drive a car, this year he's
teaching me to ride a bike." (Steven Kessler)
EARL'S PEARLS: "I took the Madame to
the Port Authority," says Wayland Flowers at
Grand Finale, "and if anybody's an authority
on port, it's the Madame."

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