

ON THE FRINGE

DANCE, LAUGH AND LIE THE BUSH ■ **SWEET DREAMS** CHELSEA CENTRE
DEALER'S CHOICE TOWER THEATRE

kitsch starting-
, Noah and his
enn Garon and
to have turned
olutionary clock
p prostrate in
l.

Linda arrives,
d pulsating with
ppy to be a both
d to bolster the
ess by tidying up
n.

icides to be her
quin-studded
the rest of the
with her longings
repression.

Vady is
ry as Linda,
er gawpingly
le without
into jarring
ically, her desire
feet firmly

n a sordid fag-
y while letting
im in fantasy-
r more about the
celebrity in our

the play which
do so, Samuel

Adamson's *Drink, Dance,
Laugh And Lie*.

Adamson's story of a
C-grade celebrity, Reade –
who is unwittingly made
X-grade when a gay fan
seduces and films him – is
far too neat.

The dialogue, especially
in the mouth of Reade's
agent Liz, glitters so much
with alliteration, rhyme,
and slick observation that
it betrays little real content
– even though the acting
and Es Devlin's
entertaining, gimmicky set
ultimately rescue this half of
the double-bill.

You would have expected
more depth from a play
about that master of
subtexts and multiple-
layers, Freud. However, Sue
Parrish's production of
Diane Esguerra's *Sweet
Dreams* also falls prey to
the fatal temptation of effect
over content.

This reworking of Freud's
controversial analysis of Ida
Bauer, or Dora, describes

her as “trapped inside a
cage of analysis”.

Unfortunately, as
disembodied voices waft
across the set and garish
green and red lighting
distorts the stage, you get
more of a sense of good
acting trapped inside a
melodramatic production.

Freud could perhaps
have been put to better use
by analysing the handful of
men bonded in poker-
obsession in the Tower
Theatre's fine production of
Patrick Marber's *Dealer's
Choice*. Entertainment
and emotional engagement
are both guaranteed by
this ace in the fringe-
theatre pack.

RACHEL HALLIBURTON

*'One Life And Counting/
Drink, Dance, Laugh And
Lie'*, (0181-743 3388),
to 6 Nov;

'Sweet Dreams', (0171-352
1967), to 30 Oct; *'Dealer's
Choice'*, (0171-226 3633),
to 23 Oct