

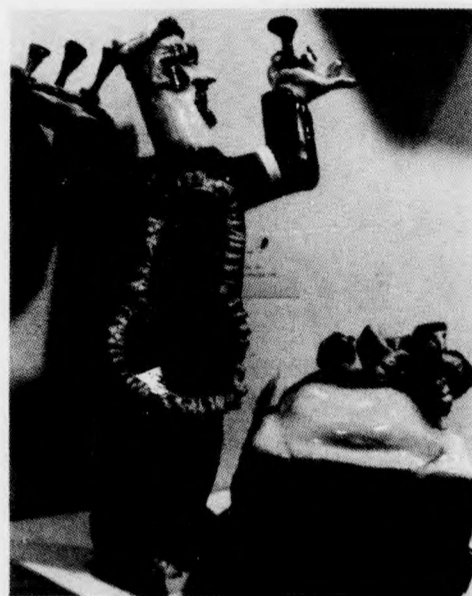
ARTS SECTION



PHOTOS BY
THERESA GRECH



As part of the Homecoming '86 celebrations, the Faculty of Fine Arts has gathered the works of past alumni under one roof. Rather than trying to establish a single theme, the show offers a potpourri of paintings, sculptures and photographs. On display until October 24, the show is a tribute to both the artists and the department itself. **CLOCKWISE:** Cynthia Del Rossa, untitled; Sandra Smith, "Birthmask"; E.J. Lightman, "East/West" (the 'east' half); Eva Ormut, "At a Cocktail Party" and "Cruising"; and, Fern Helfand, untitled.



York Community Arts Events c a l e n d a r

Compiled by JENNIFER PARSONS

DANCE

Thurs. Oct. 23: Lunchtime dance performance. Studio I Fine Arts Bldg., 12-1 p.m.

FILM AND VIDEO

Oct. 16-Nov. 14: Student feature film: *Welcome to The Parade*, Nat Taylor Cinema, Ross N102, 3-5 p.m.

GALLERY SHOWS

Oct. 16-Nov. 14: *Kim Moodie: of Unknown Origin*, Drawings 1984-86, Glendon Gallery.

Oct. 28-Nov. 9: "We Overlap But Never Touch," recent works by Stuart Reid, Founders Gallery, 206 FC.

Oct. 2-Nov. 14: *Victor Mateo: Acrylics on Canvas*, Winters College Gallery.

Oct. 16-Nov. 14: *York Work*, An exhibition of sculpture, intermedia and performance works from the teaching faculty of Fine Arts. AGYU, Ross N145.

Oct. 27-31: *Black and White Show*, multimedia, IDA Gallery, 102 FAB.

Works by Nicole Eliot, Paintings by a Quebec artist, Zacks Gallery, 109 Stong College.

Oct. 28-Nov. 2: Stuart Reid presents "We Overlap but Never Touch," a show of his recent work. Founders Gallery; Reception Tues. 5-9.

MUSIC

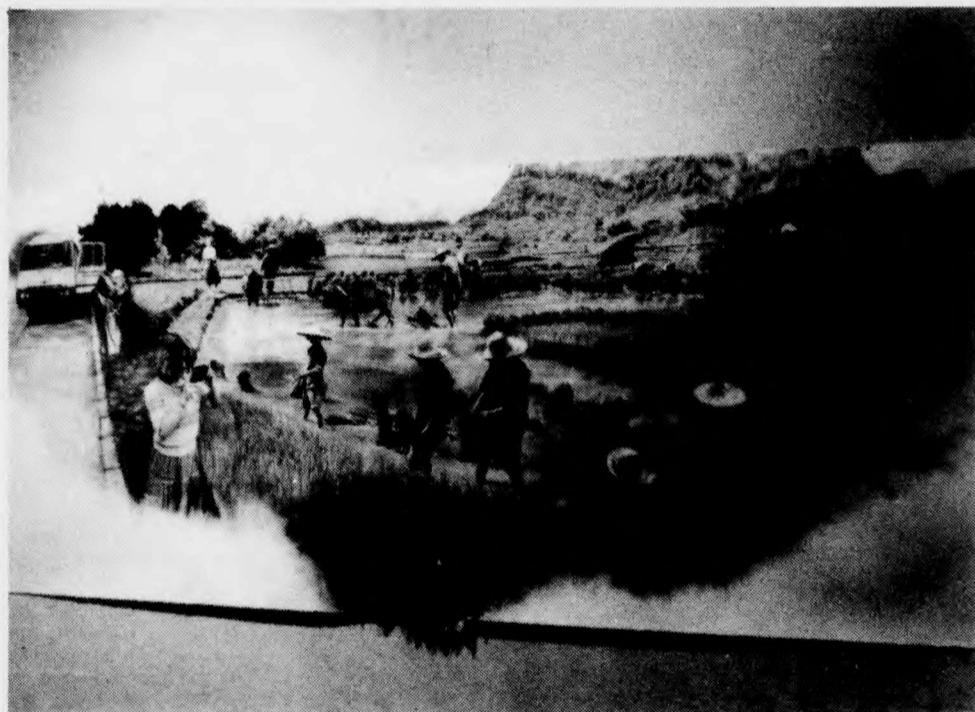
Oct. 30: South Indian Music Concert, McLaughlin Senior Common Room, 8:00 p.m.

Oct. 31: Student Chambers Series, a varied program given by students of the Music Dept., McLaughlin Hall, 12 p.m.

THEATRE

Oct. 21-24: *Conference of the Birds*, by Jean-Claude Carrier and Peter Brook. Theatre Department third-year production, directed by Jeff Henry. Atkinson Theatre, 7:00 p.m. For more information call the Theatre Dept. at 736-5173.

If you are planning an Arts event, drop by *Excalibur* at 111 Central Square or call 736-3202 and ask for Kevin, Angela, or Jenny.



Rhombus promotes Canadian performing arts

By ANGELA LAWRENCE
and KEVIN PASQUINO

"I'm a York Graduate and proud of it," exclaimed Larry Weinstein at the Faculty of Fine Arts Homecoming festivities held Friday night.

Weinstein is a member of Rhombus Media, a film company founded by former York students Barbara Willis Sweet and Niv Fichman. Two films recently produced by Rhombus, *Making Overtures* and *Blue Snake*, were screened as part of the faculty's Homecoming '86 events.

Rhombus Media was formed as a result of Willis Sweet and Fichman's collaboration on *Opus 1 Number One*, a film they put together while at York and subsequently sold to CBC and TVOntario. *Opus 1 Number One* profiles a musical ensemble comprised of talented children. This film (also screened Friday Night) set the topic trend for Rhombus, which focuses on the performing arts in Canada.

Weinstein became involved with Rhombus Media when he was hired by the company through a summer employment program. Once his work term was over, both Willis Sweet and Fichman agreed that his assistance was indispensable and offered him a partnership in their company.

Both Weinstein and Willis Sweet were pres-

ent at the Homecoming screening of their films, but Fichman was unable to attend as he is currently working in Switzerland. *Making Overtures: The Story of a Community Orchestra*, a 29-minute film, is a profile of the volunteer symphony orchestra in the small town of Cobourg, Ontario. The film centres on the feeling of accomplishment and community pride that the orchestra helps to create.

Last year, *Making Overtures* was nominated for an Academy Award in the short documentary film category, giving the three a big thrill. "About one hundred people told us we were going to win," Weinstein said, "so we were preparing our acceptance speeches and waiting to go on stage. We didn't win, but still had a lot of fun." Even with the defeat, the nomination itself is an acknowledgement by the Academy of the quality work that Rhombus is producing.

Refusing to be satisfied with past successes, Rhombus has released *Blue Snake*, an hour-long documentary of the National Ballet production of the same name. Recently aired on TVOntario, the film profiles the creation of the elaborate modern ballet conceived and designed by Robert Desrosier.

Following Desrosier and the dancers from early rehearsals to final production, *Blue Snake* is a detailed study of how a National Ballet presentation is put together. Similar to *Making Overtures*, *Blue Snake* allows the hard work

and devotion of the people to speak for itself. Because *Blue Snake* is the story of a big budget ballet production, the concern for excellence is more intense, but the documentary still captures the enjoyment which lies behind the work.

To date, Rhombus has made 15 films, all focusing on music or dance. Their work has been sold internationally to European and Asian countries, and, "Portugal, for some reason, has become big fans of ours and wants to buy all of our films," Weinstein said. The American market has also opened up to Rhombus, with PBS being enthusiastic about the company's work.

Rhombus Media is sold on promoting Canadian performing arts. According to Sweet, "It's important to us that we make films that promote Canadian culture," and, somewhat surprisingly, the company has found it is commercially viable to make films about Canadian culture.

Rhombus Media seems to be on the right road towards success (both Willis Sweet and Weinstein were recently nominated for Gemini Awards—Canadian TV) and is promoting York's Faculty of Fine Arts en route. Over the years they have hired many students from York to work on their productions, giving York students the opportunity to show the world what they have to offer with excellent training from York's fine arts faculty.



A LOT TO SMILE ABOUT: Former York film students Larry Weinstein and Barbara Willis Sweet at the Homecoming screening of their documentaries.