

Cabaret-style "smorgasbord"

By TANIA HEWITT

There was fun-o-rama at Dram-o-rama — a cabaret of music and theatre staged at the Stong Junior Common Room last Friday.

The smorgasbord of artistic delights began with a mellow performance on harmonica and acoustic guitars by members of the band Ernie's Coffee Shop.

Second on the bill was the long-haired beauty Alda who read excerpts from two famous works — *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy and *An American Custom* by Henry James. Her voice and mannerisms expressed a variety of emotions that made her portrayals convincing.

The fine performance by Alda was followed by *The Bloody Stump of God*, a play written by York students Macdonald Scott and Kathryn Kuder. This innovative piece was not about God, but a playwright's struggle to get his play accepted in the theatrical world. The crux of the play was whether the protagonist Sean Procenium, played by Andrew Clark, would sell out by sacrificing his play to producers' demands.

The snappy dialogue and outlandish costuming worked together to invite the audience into Sean's bizarre world. The performances of the cast bordered on outrageous.

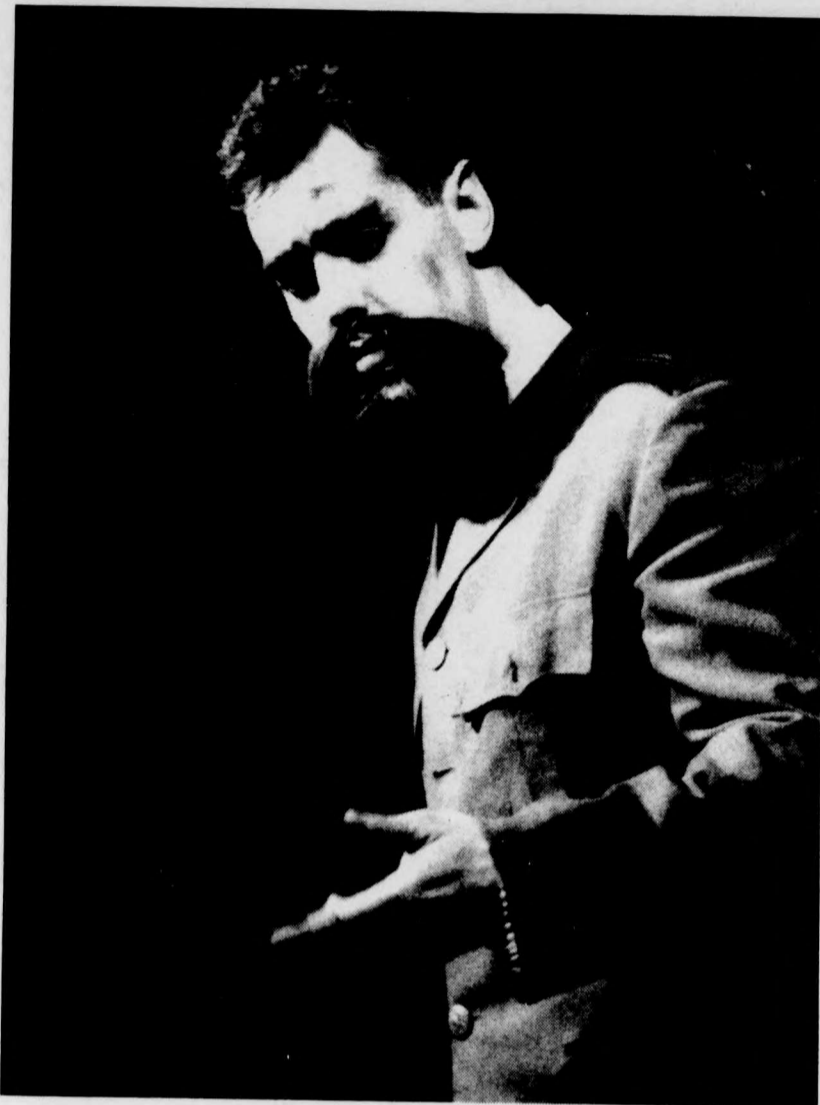
It was clear from the audience's enthusiasm that a good time was had by all. Dram-o-rama was staged to raise money for the Ontario Society For Autistic Citizens (OSAC). According to Andrew Clark, one of the organizers and co-director of Samuel Beckett Theatre, the OSAC was selected because "autism is a relatively unknown cause but one worthy of attention and support. We want to make people more aware and the Dram-o-rama was the best way to do it."

The organizers decided to stage a theatre/musical cabaret instead of say, a bake sale, because, "We wanted to promote theatre and do something entertaining that would also benefit the community," said Jennifer Ewert, co-ordinator of Dram-o-rama and co-director of

Beckett Theatre.

The organizers and countless volunteers donated time and money in the hopes that this production will encourage people at York to hold other events for worthy causes.

For information on autism contact OSAC at 731-3629.



On the one hand we have . . . what was my line?

ARTS CALENDAR

Compiled By HOWARD KAMAN

GALLERIES

The Art Gallery of York University presents *From Concept to Context*, featuring the works of Robert Barry, Stanley Brown, Daniel Burton, and Lawrence Weiner, until April 16. Free.

The IDA Gallery in the Fine Arts Building is pleased to present a *Foundation Show*, featuring the works of students in the Visual Arts BFA programme. The show runs until March 17. Free.

LECTURES/SEMINARS

Atkinson College presents a three-day conference titled *Yugoslavia in Crisis: Croatian Perspectives*, from March 17-19. Registration fees are \$10 per day, or \$20 for two days. \$5 (for students) per day, or \$10 for 2 days. For more information, call Diane Stadnicki at 736-5714.

The English Students Association presents *Science Fiction: A Symposium* from March 22-29. Speakers include U of T professor Peter Fitting, March 22; author Phyllis Gotlieb, March 23; author Steve Stirling, March 28; and author Judith Merrill, March 29. Free. For more information, call Paul at 222-9640.

THEATRE

York University's Department of Theatre presents Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*, April 4-8 at 7 pm in the Atkinson Theatre. Admission is \$7, \$5 for students. Call the box office at 736-5157.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visions: Imagining the Life, a multi-media production by York Visual arts Student Vytas Cuplinskas is being presented March 17-19 at ST. Michael's College School, 1515 Bathurst St. Showtimes are March 17 and 18 at 8 pm and March 19 at 2 pm. For more information, call 537-7899.

If you have an event that you would like the York community to know about, jot down the necessary information and drop it off in the large manilla envelope in the Excal office, 111 Central Square

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