

Entertainment

U of A B.F.A. program tops

by Suzanne Lundrigan

"The word is out in this country that if you want a well trained actor, you look to the University of Alberta."

Dr. Gordon Peacock

Gordon Peacock, a founding member of the University of Alberta's B.F.A. department, is quick to point out that the program is only the second best in the country. Pressed to name the best faculty, he winks slyly and says that he doesn't know of any program which is better.

Accredited in 1966, the B.F.A. program was the first of its kind in Canada.

In those days it was comprised of twenty students and a faculty made up of volunteers from other departments. Housed in Corbett Hall, Peacock recalls that it was a small but vocal faculty.

The B.F.A. department circa 1985 has grown to include a core of 50 B.F.A. students and hundreds of students with either drama majors or minors.

Membership to the core group of B.F.A. students is a hardwon honour.

As a reward for their efforts the students receive extensive training in the traditional theatre.

"We prepare our students for the theatre as it exists today; not for the theatre of the future. Truly, how can one prepare for something that does not yet exist," said Peacock.

Nevertheless, Peacock recognizes the importance of the experimental theatre and looks to the days when the department will explore that aspect of the theatre more fully.

Another of the department's strong points is its faculty. As Peacock explains, it is made up of both persons who have explored theatre in an academic milieu as well as persons who have worked extensively in the profession.

The combination is apparently effective as almost all of the students receive work within a year of graduating. These statistics are impressive when compared with those seen in the United States where only 10 per cent of the students can expect to be working after graduation.

Another factor which contributes to the good employment prospects enjoyed by U of A grads is the direct liaison between the B.F.A. program and the professional theatres in the city.

A number of Edmonton's artistic directors are U of A grads who maintain strong ties with their alma mater. In return, the U of A drama department provides them with props and expertise as is necessary. This kind of professional/academic interface is great benefit to the students.



Photo Tim Hellum

Looking to the future, Peacock hopes to see a program which will train more Canadian actors and which will concentrate on more Canadian plays.

The B.F.A. program was created to respond to the need for professional actors, directors and playwrights. The program has fulfilled this need. Now, says Peacock it is time to start training young people who will become leaders in the professional theatre.



Photo Tim Hellum

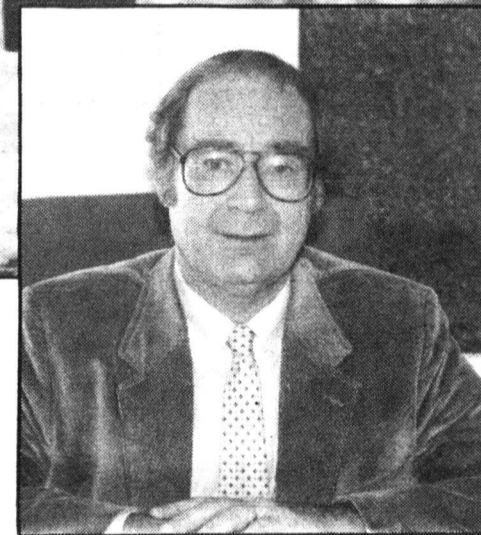


Photo Dan Watson

The BFA Studio Theatre

Above inset: 'The Good Doctor'

Photo: 'Taming of the Shrew'

Below inset: Gordon Peacock

Multi-media exposition unveiled

Handspirits is here

by Mark Wolfe

While the sultans of Canadian culture were either present on tuned-in for Saturday night's gala opening of the Centre for Performing Arts in Calgary, other Alberta culturati, craftsmen and women, and patrons of the arts were on hand for the official opening of a new showing — *Handspirits* — at the Beaver House Gallery in Edmonton.

Opening remarks came from Alberta Crafts Council President Bonnie Murdoch, and Maureen McTeer, wife of External Affairs Minister Joe Clark and well-known patron of the arts.

Several of the 48 artists partaking in the showing were also on hand including award winners Beverley Falkeid of Bawlf, Alberta and Calgary artists Murray Gibson and Henry Schlosser whose birch and rosewood combination coffee-table took the Best in Show \$1000 prize.

The exhibit includes works of fibre, ceramics, metals, woods, and mixed-media, including some breathtaking tapestries and beautiful art-deco jewellery from Calgary artist Jackie Anderson.

Edmonton is the opening venue for the 54-piece showing which will travel to six other cities in Alberta and Vancouver for

Expo '86. *Handspirits* continues at Beaver House until October 19 before moving onto Grande Prairie.

"I think everyone involved in the crafts council was delighted with the turnout," said Mrs. Murdoch. "I had nothing but absolutely positive feedback, both from visitors and the craftspeople there. It's been a long time since a big crafts show has been mounted and put on this way."

The Alberta Crafts Council — a wholly autonomous society of craftspeople — was created in 1980. Although *Handspirits* is the council's first major gallery showing, Mrs. Murdoch said the council has a variety of other crafts activities on the go, including a continuous slide-registry — slides of works submitted by the artists from which a series of juries decide the finalists for shows like *Handspirits* — and preparations for a crafts show that will take part in pre-1988 Olympic Games arts and culture activities.

Visitors to Beaver House would also do well to take in an ancillary crafts show one floor up from *Handspirits*. This all-Edmonton exhibit is every bit as exciting as *Handspirits* and includes works by Pirrko Karvonen and Judy Villet. The "Upstairs Exhibit" will also run 12:30 - 4:30 weekdays until October 19.

What about the Who?

by Don Teplyske

Holy Detective, Batman! The Continual Pursuit has been cracked. Marlin Degrand needed only one clue to identify The Bay City Rollers as the unknown band. Further clues would have revealed the national origin of their last lead singer, a love of tartan and origin of the band's name. For his efforts Marlin wins a copy of Paul Janz's *High Strung* album and several singles from Island Records. Thanks to all who entered.

This week's feature artist is The Who and the Continual Pursuit is a bit more difficult. Drop your entries off at The Gateway office, Rm. 282, SUB. The entry with the most correct answers will win a five dollar record token from Auracle Records (10808 - 82 ave.)

FEATURE ARTIST: The Who

1. What moniker did The Who use before settling on The Who? a) Pete and the Modsters b) the High Numbers c) Hooligans
2. Did The Who perform at Woodstock?
3. Which two Who albums have been made into feature films?
4. What was the last Who album Keith Moon played on?
5. When The Who played Edmonton for the first time (1967), they were opening for what British band?



6. Four LiveAid performers appeared at Woodstock sixteen years earlier. Who were the three bands and one woman?

7. Who warned that "you can't rollerskate in a buffalo herd"?

8. In what movie did James Brown appear as the Rev. James Cleveland?

9. In West Side Story, what were you "from your first cigarette"?

THE CONTINUAL PURSUIT

Clue #1 — Son of a pro soccer player, this Jamacian singer wrote detective stories as a teenager.

Last Week's Answers

1. St. Louis 2. Chess 3. "Roll Over Beethoven"
4. the Mann Act (transportation of a female over state line for immoral use) 5. "My Ding-a-ling" 6. Siouxsie and the Banshees 7. Micky Dolenz 8. Bruce Springsteen 9. Waylon Jennings