

John Herbert's Fortune

Playwright saw his drama staged as a farce

By J.W. BELTRAME

"I write for actors; they are the most important people in the theatre and everyone should be in their service," playwright John Herbert (*Fortune* and *Men's Eyes*) said last Monday after reading excerpts from his second play, *Born of Medusa's Blood*, to students in the graduate student lounge.

Medusa, the story of a black woman's fight for survival, received mixed reviews when it played in Toronto last year. The *Star's* sub-

stitute critic gave it a rave review, but upon Urjo Kareda's return the play was reviewed again, unfavourably.

"I loved the rehearsals of this play," said Herbert, who also directed the Toronto production.

"I didn't give a damn what the critics said. I wanted the audience reaction to be good, and it was."

Herbert's first play, *Fortune* and *Men's Eyes*, made him an internationally known playwright; predictably, Herbert had to go to New York to get the play produced.

"Mitchell Nelson, who directed the New York production, wanted to remove the love scene between Mona and Smitty," stated Herbert, with a gleam in his eye.

"He knew Mona was the survivor and he hated this. He wanted them to fight rather than make love."

"I finally said to him, Mitchell, what is this play about? It's about the brutality of prison life, he answered."

"I said, no it's not, Mitchell. The play is about the scene you want to

remove."

Herbert had other problems with the Paris production.

"M. Dupuis (the director), once he got the play, was extremely fearful of it. He was so afraid, that he saw only the comic elements and staged it as a Moliere farce."

"He had the actors hitting each other with batons. I blew up and shouted, M. Dupuis, pourquoi les batons? Once he knew I didn't want my name on the programme as the

director, he let me do what I wanted."

The filming of *Fortune* by MGM is a delicate subject with Herbert.

"I didn't know film people could be so hateful," he begins. "I became more and more disturbed that the box office dictated every decision, the script, the actors..."

"By the time it was finished it was only a skeleton of my script (he also wrote the screenplay). They used the easy scenes and left out what could really be developed. I felt the film was only a series of vignettes of prison life."

Herbert was so upset that he missed the opening; but a year later he saw the film in Paris and was pleasantly surprised. "I still felt it was a superficial film, but on the whole, I liked it. Film provides the opportunity for greater intimacy with the audience than theatre, but it's a director's media."

"In Paris, the writer is still the first person of the theatre. If the writer fights, he'll win."

Sight and Sound

A resounding Tinkle at Glendon

The English 253 class at Glendon presents N.F. Simpson's *A Resounding Tinkle* tonight at 8 p.m. in the Pipe Room, on the Glendon campus. Admission for this "hilarious comedy" is 50 cents.

Cabaret to issue dimes for metres

The Cabaret reports that it will wow the York audience at 9 and 10:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night in Vanier's Open End. "We will provide the dime," it adds cryptically, "for anyone who wants to spend an exciting hour out at one of York's parking metres."

Mad Housewife with Cheap Dirt

Carrie Snodgrass plays the title role in *Diary of a Mad Housewife*, as a bored woman tied to Richard Benjamin, who plays a consummate Creep. Eleanor Perry wrote it, Frank Perry directed it, and Cheap Dirt productions brings it to the Calumet living room at 7 and 9 p.m. Sunday, for a mere 69 cents.

Punishment Park sprouts in Curtis

Peter Watkins' *Punishment Park* was shot in September, 1970 at the edge of the Mojave Desert with an amateur cast. The plot, somewhat outdated, concerns the arrest and imprisonment in American detention camps of students demonstrating against the war in Indochina. The prisoners are given a choice of serving time in a penitentiary or spending three days without water in *Punishment Park*, trying to outrun the National Guard.

Watkins is best known for his films *Privilege*, and *The War Game*, a "documentary" on the aftermath of a nuclear bomb landing on Britain. *The War Game* was produced for the BBC, but was (and is) banned from television.

Winters is gambling that enough people will show an interest in this film to make it worthwhile to try similar scheduling experiments in the future. They're showing it Friday and Sunday nights at 8 p.m. in Curtis LH-L, for \$1.25 general and \$1 for Winters students.

Free look at North and pollution

The Environmental Studies film series goes all out with a festival of (you guessed it) environmental films. Tonight they'll study the Canadian North and the City, and tomorrow, Natural Resources and Pollution. The films are from 1 to 6 p.m. in Osgoode Hall's Moot Court, and are free of charge.

Hamlet hits the screen in blue jeans and love beads

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Hamlet is alive and well and living in blue jeans.

At least, that was how Steven Bush staged Shakespeare's play over two years ago in the Bathurst Street United Church. And that was how director-editor Rene Bonniere and cameraman Richard Leiterman (who photographed *Goin' Down the Road and Between Friends*) filmed it during its short-term run.

The film, almost three hours long, took two years to edit, and since then has been shown only to a crowd of senior high school students at the Ontario Science Centre.

But this afternoon, from 3:15 to 6:30 p.m., with a supper break from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m., *Hamlet* will be shown in Curtis LH-L, courtesy of the film department.

"They did (the play) in jeans and love beads and grass, and the whole place was a veritable euphoria," relates York film department chairman James Beveridge.

The crew shot the play in the church hall chamber over eight performances, during a stifling August heat wave made worse by the numerous quartz lights. Leiterman, with 28 pounds of equipment on his shoulder, wound up with 22 hours of footage.

"In effect, Leiterman was in eight productions," comments Beveridge. "If there was a ghost, there was a ghost plus Leiterman. If there was an Ophelia, there was Ophelia plus Leiterman."

Producer Budge Crawley, who has produced *The Luck of Ginger Coffey*

and *The Rowdyman*, hopes to sell the film as a textbook to the province of Ontario.

The major obstacle in the way of distribution is the film's length and resultant "fatigue factor": hence, the supper break today.

Admission to the showing is free.

Peter Pan in his suitcase became more than a hobby

By VINCENT P. DORVAL

Two weekends ago, a mid-fortyish man arrived at York, his luggage consisting of films and little else.

William K. Everson brought with him such obscure movies as *Pilgrimage* and the silent *Peter Pan*, and more popular ones like *The Big Trail* (John Wayne's first film) and *Smouldering Fires*. And the small but devoted audience at the films' screening managed to keep Osgoode's Moot Court ashtrays full for a 32-hour weekend.

Everson, author (*The Bad Guys*, *The Detective in Film*) and teacher in New York, is rumoured to have over 5,000 films kicking around his basement. And his living room. And his bedroom.

In fact, historian Kevin Brownlow has said of Everson that he has done more than anyone else to preserve films that have been ignored by studio heads and distributing companies.

"This work I am doing now, as a curator of sorts, started out as a hob-

by," said Everson, "but it became more and more physically demanding and time-consuming as the years went by."

"Now I hardly have time for anything else."

He even met his wife during a screening. "She didn't like the comments I was making about the film we were seeing. We were married a few months later."

Asked if he had any cinematic projects of his own, he said, "The only film I would desire to do would be a western with George Arliss, Buster Keaton and Harry Langdon as brothers. It would be done with a light touch."

He complained about the lack of important films being screened at York on the weekend, such as *Paper Moon*.

"If I were stuck on a desert island," he commented, "the three films I'd like to have with me would be *Sunrise*, *Birth of a Nation*, and *Love Me Tonight*."

On Campus

SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 12:00 noon - York Poetry Series (Faculty of Fine Arts, Departments of English and Humanities) featuring Sheila Watson, author of *The Double Hook* - S869, Ross

12:00 noon - Lunch-Hour Critic (English) "The Fall of 1953" a multi-media presentation by York Professor Bob White - A, Stedman

12:00 noon - Discussion (York Student Christian Movement) "Canada and the U.S. Against the Third World" by John Dillon of Project GATT-fly - Masters Dining Room, Stong

2:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker (Sociology 359) "Communes and the Organization of Health Services in the Peoples' Republic of China" by Dr. Peter New, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto - S136, Ross

2:00 p.m. - Renaissance Poetry Reading (Faculty of Fine Arts) students from the Theatre 209 class will read works by Shakespeare, Drayton, Donne, Sydney, Johnson and Marlowe - S783, Ross

2:00 p.m. - Public Lecture (Faculty of Graduate Studies) "Inelastic Scattering of Electrons by Alkali Atoms in a Polarized Orbital Approximation" by Mr. Paul D. Dobson, candidate for the M.Sc. degree - 317, Petrie

2:00 p.m. - Mathematics Colloquium - "On a Problem in Location Theory" by Professor L. Fejes Toth, Director of the Mathematical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Science - N203, Ross

4:15 p.m. - Guest Speaker (Glendon Interdisciplinary Studies) "Après l'avant-garde" by Michel Denee, Diplome de l'INSAS a Bruxelles - lecture in French; question/answer period in English - A105, York Hall, Glendon

7:30 p.m. - E.G.O. Faculty (Centre for Continuing Education) "Open Marriage" with Barb and Sy Silverberg - general admission \$6.00; \$4.00 for students - 107, Stedman

8:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker (Philosophy Department) "The Philosophical Significance of Altered States of Consciousness" by Mr. Harold Shore - S783, Ross

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. - E.G.O. Faculty (Centre for Continuing Education) "Quantitative Laboratory Experiments of Extra-Sensory-Perception" with Howard Eisenberg - general admission \$5.00; \$3.50 for students - 107, Stedman

FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 3:15 p.m. & 5:15 p.m. - Film (Film Department)

"Hamlet" (directed by Rene Bonniere; photographed by Richard Leiterman) filmed in Toronto - L, Curtis

4:00 p.m. - 5:35 p.m. - Film (Humanities 376) "The Importance of Being Earnest" - I, Curtis

7:00 p.m. - Film (English) "The Wild One" - D, Stedman

8:00 p.m. - Play (Theatre) "The Balcony" (by Jean Genet) - free tickets may be obtained from the Burton Box Office - Atkinson College Studio

8:00 p.m. - Play (English 253) "A Resounding Tinkle-Tinkle" - admission 50¢ - Pipe Room, Glendon

8:30 p.m. - An Evening of Renaissance Dance and Music (Faculty of Fine Arts) performed by Fine Arts students - tickets for each performance are \$4.00; \$3.00 for staff; and \$1.50 for students - Burton Auditorium

9:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. - Cabaret Theatre - 004, Vanier
Friday 7:00 p.m. - Film (Film Department) "Mother" (1926; by Pudovkin) - L, Curtis

8:00 p.m. - Entertainment (Stong Cultural Committee) featuring Arabeska - Polish Theatre Troupe - admission \$1.00 - JCR, Stong

8:00 p.m. - Play (Theatre) "The Balcony" - Atkinson College Studio

8:00 p.m. - Film (Winters) "Punishment Park" (Directed by Peter Watkins) - admission \$1.25 - I, Curtis

8:30 p.m. - An Evening of Renaissance Music and Dance - Burton Auditorium

9:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. - Cabaret Theatre - 004, Vanier
Saturday 8:00 p.m. - Play (Theatre) "The Balcony" - Atkinson College Studio

8:00 p.m. - Entertainment (Stong) featuring Arabeska - admission \$1.00 - JCR, Stong

8:30 p.m. - An Evening of Renaissance Music and Dance - Burton Auditorium

Sunday 7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. - Film (Calumet) "Diary of a Mad Housewife" admission 69¢ - Calumet Common Room, Atkinson

8:00 p.m. - Film (Winters) "Punishment Park" - admission \$1.25 - I, Curtis

ATHLETICS, RECREATION

Thursday 7:00 p.m. - Cross Country Skiing (Physical

Events for On Campus should be sent to Dawn Cotton, Department of Information and Publications, N817 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.

Education) all interested members of the York community welcome to participate; bring own equipment - Football Field behind Ice Arena

Friday 8:15 p.m. - Basketball - York vs. Laurentian University - Tait McKenzie

Saturday 8:15 p.m. - Basketball - York vs. Brock University - Tait McKenzie

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - Recreational Soccer - Tait McKenzie
2:00 p.m. - Indoor Tennis - Tait McKenzie

Monday 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Conditioning for Men & Women - each Mon., Wed., and Fri. - Tait McKenzie

Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - Scuba Diving Class (British Sub Aqua) - S203, Ross

CLUBS, MEETINGS

Monday 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. - Hatha Yoga - JCR, McLaughlin

7:30 p.m. - York Bridge Club - Vanier Dining Hall

MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday 7:30 p.m. - Roman Catholic Mass - 107, Stedman

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Christian Counselling & Religious Consultation - call Chaplain Judt at 661-3738 or 633-2158

COFFEE HOUSES, PUBS

For days and hours open, please call the individual coffee houses:

Absinthe Coffee House - 013, Winters (2439)

Ainger Coffee Shop - Atkinson College (3544)

Argh Coffee Shop - 051, McLaughlin (3606)

Buttery - Founders (3550)

Cock & Bull Coffee Shop - 023, Founders (3667)

Green Bush Inn - T.B.A. (3019)

Just Another Coffee Shop - 112, Bethune (3579)

Open End Coffee Shop - 004, Vanier (6386)

Orange Snail Coffee Shop - 107, Stong (3587)

Osgoode Pub - BCR, Osgoode (3019)

Pizza Pit - 124, Central Square, Ross (3286)

Tap'n Keg Pub - JCR, Bethune (6 p.m. - 12:30 a.m., Wed.)

Beer Lunch - JCR, Stong (12 noon - 2 p.m., Thurs.)