

# arts

## Clusterbusk comes in from the cold

by Leslie J Furlong

Café Mokka was the place to be last Thursday night if you began to feel the "Halifax is the new Seattle" hype was getting to be a bit much. About a dozen street musicians gathered there with their acoustic instruments for a two-hour-plus preview of *Clusterbusk '93*,

the first recording project to spring forth from Deep Rehearsal Space Nine, providing a reminder for those in attendance that some of the best music is made by combining a guitar with a voice.

When these guys are playing on the street, they are at the mercy of their audiences. They understand that most

people pass them by like aural wallpaper, and on a Friday or Saturday night downtown, not many people would wish to be rooted to one spot on the concrete when a good number of the people that stop to listen are just heckling drunks. It is for that small number of people who throw what spare change they have into that beat-up guitar case, the ones that show authentic apprecia-

tion for what that player is doing, that they play for, and even then a large repertoire of covers and the stuff to fake the rest is a must.

Tonight it's different. Tonight the audience has come to see what these street musicians can do, and it is up to the musicians to decide what they are going to play.

It was hard to say how many were there to see the performers and how many were there to perform, but anyone who spent anytime downtown would probably have recognized someone up on the small stage. The guy who is always at the Johnnycash machine was there, Sean Meisner, sounding much better than I ever recalled him being outdoors. The guy from out in front of the library (well, one of them, anyway) was there as well, and so were a number of others, including my fa-

avourite guys to philosophize with on my hazier nights, Benn and Bob.

The material consisted mostly of original songs that probably don't get the attention that they deserve when played on the street, with the covers of Dylan and Robert Johnson being sandwiched in between for a change. When a new act takes to the stage, the cry of, "Play the hit!" is greeted with collected laughter. Out of the three or so songs that each artist plays, at least one is pulled from the seventeen tracks found on the cassette, which gets its deserved release in early November.

At the end of the night, after all of the performances, it's time for the audience to show its appreciation in the traditional busker way. The hat is passed, and we all dig a little deeper than we would on any other night. It's only fair.

## Gwen Noah & George Stamos dance duet *Proceed With Caution*

by Daniel Spencer

It's Monday and the 4 pm deadline nears. RING! "Dalhousie Gazette." It's Gwen Noah, a Halifax dancer and choreographer, requesting an introduction to her upcoming dance duet, *Proceed With Caution*. The 'it's a small world' phenomenon surfaces with our common past connection to Jeanne Robinson and her Nova Dance Theatre from the '80s. As our conversation eases, she responds to the nearing deadline by sending a press kit by courier. Less than 20 minutes later as I hung up from our second conversation the courier arrives.

Noah joins forces

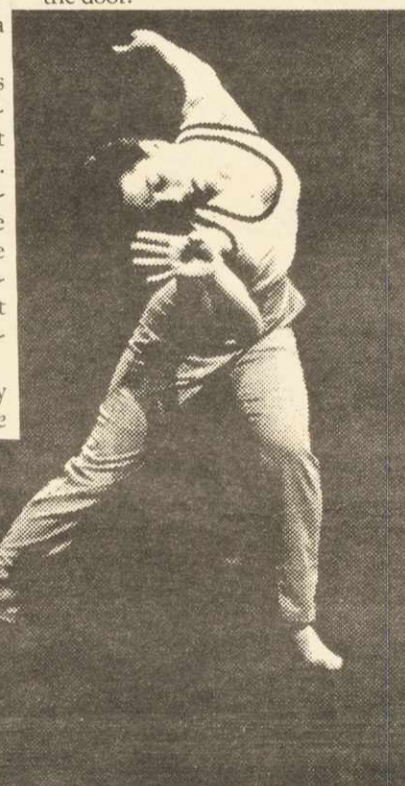
with recently returned choreographer and performer George Stamos. Noah's passion and Stamos' pushing physical boundaries will merge through her honest and his water-smooth sensuality. Their common modern dance experience strengthened by her ballet, Cecchetti training, and improvisational skills and his African, club, and street-dance styles should make for quite a breath-taking performance.

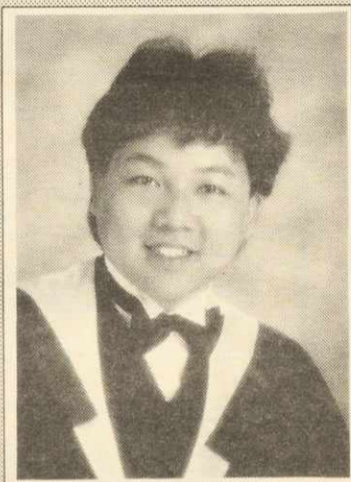
This evening of new dance includes solos by both artists and the premiere of a collaborative duet that explores sensuality and desire. With a shared interest in stretching the boundaries of dance these choreographers have merged to bring Halifax audiences a dance event not to be missed or forgotten.

It is presented by Gwen Noah Dance

as part of an ongoing series of collaborative projects in contemporary dance.

The Halifax run of *Proceed With Caution* takes place October 27th at 8 pm and October 28th at 10 pm at The Church, 5657 North St. Tickets are \$5. Tickets are available in advance at Café Mokka, 1532 Brunswick St. or at the door.





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