

# Hare brings experience to Studio Theatre

by Anna Borowiecki

Professor Carl Hare has lived in cities most of us only dream about — Victoria, Montreal, London and Paris. And since returning to his native Edmonton last fall as the new Chairman of the Drama Department, he has had no regrets. Hare's duties — teaching, attending meetings and developing the various programs in the department — keep him busy, but never too busy to greet a passing student or to drop by his staff's offices to clear up minor conflicts. At 52, Carl Hare's cosmopolitan outlook on life combined with a home-town friendliness has made a clear hit with staff and students alike.

Hare graduated from the University of Alberta in 1954 with an Honors degree in English, and later he completed an M.A. in English specializing in Shakespeare, but he earned his true acting spurs at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. Upon his return to Canada he both taught and free-lanced as an actor. Eventually Hare was lured to the University of Victoria with the opportunity to start a new theatre department and was there for the next twenty

years. In that time he took three years off to teach at the National Theatre School in Montreal and took a one-year sabbatical to continue his studies in London and Paris.

Spurred on by his studies, Hare formed his own theatrical group — Company One. Based in Victoria, this company played to audiences for 3½ years before closing its doors. Carl Hare's artistic style bloomed with the troupe and can now be condensed into three words: "I like exploring." He quickly adds "I'm equally happy with the classics or with contemporary works or brand new work."

Another aspect of the chairman's job is to develop liaisons with the theatres in the city. This year Gordon McDougall, Artistic Director of the Citadel, will be teaching at the University. He will be supervising the two MFA directing candidates as well as directing a Shakespearean or Jacobean play with the second year BFA students. Douglas Riske, founder of Alberta Theatre Projects in Calgary, will also be a guest director for the graduating BFA students' opening production this season.

Yet after a full career encompassing acting, teaching and founding a company, Professor Hare returned to Edmonton for a variety of reasons. "I felt personally it was time for a change and that I needed the provocation and stimulator of this department. And also of Edmonton which is boiling with theatre — the Fringe and nine professional companies. Also this is probably the best drama department in the country. The students are very talented and there's a very energetic staff."

On the administrative level, Professor Hare describes himself as a "facilitator" with several tasks. "One is that I allow my staff the richest opportunities they can have. They need to continue their professional work so they can enrich the students' experience. I also feel this applies not only to the professional staff but to the historians and to others on staff."

"I feel also that we have to maintain the integrity of each of the programs. We have our professional programs, the BFA, the MFA in design and acting and we also have the B.A. and M.A. I feel very strongly that each has its own values, its own reason for being here. I'm dealing with a set of different programs and trying to find a way that we are a community allowing all these programs to exist."

Several considerations determined the 1984-85 Studio Theatre season: "First of all," explained Hare, "It's put together by a committee which represents the various divisions of the department. We had to deal with the needs of the BFA students in terms of their final year, so we showcase them."

The first four plays of the season will be BFA graduating students' productions. The remaining two will be produced by MFA directing candidates.

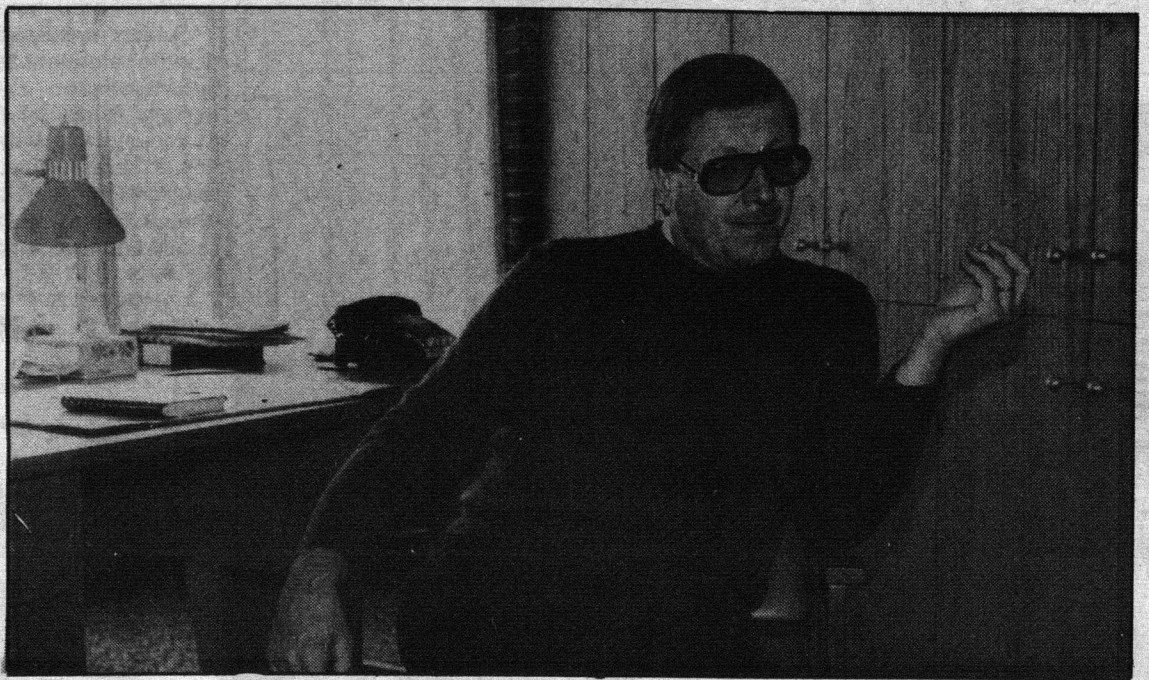
*Tartuffe*, the first BFA production of the season, opens October 18. This classic comedy, directed by Doug Riske, is to be played in the full period costume of the 17th century. The plot involves a rich, but greedy man who allows himself to be duped out of his wealth by a religious imposter. Moliere examines man's greed, religious deception and men who see and hear only what they wish and not what actually exists. For a night of chuckles and guffaws, this play is a must.

*Our Town* written by Thornton Wilder, opens November 29. Tom Peacocke directs this 1938 Pulitzer Prize winning play that has become a modern classic. The action develops over a period of 12 years centering on

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Carl Hare begins second season with Studio Theatre

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