

'Kyogen' at Cohn April 4

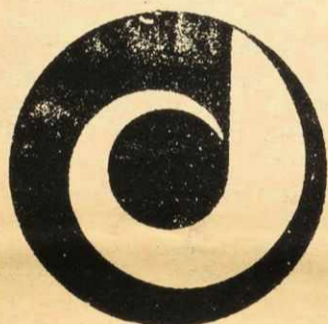
A major event of the performing arts season gets the month of April off to an exciting start at Dalhousie Arts Centre. The National Comic Theatre of Japan "KYOGEN" will be presented by Dalhousie Cultural Activities on Friday, April 4, at 8:30 p.m. in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre.

The word renowned "Kyogen", classical Japanese comedy, will feature two distinguished acting families, the Nomuras of Tokyo and the Shigeyamas of Kyoto. Both families are holders of the designation "National Living Treasurers", the highest honor the Japanese government can confer on its artists. They trace their acting traditions back at least to the 16th and 17th centuries; traditions that still flourish in Japan today. Rivals in a

common cause, they present delightful contrasts in the manner and matter of performance. "Kyogen" presents a wide range of characters from gods and demons to lords and gentlemen of high estate, from brides and bride-grooms to woodcutters and trappers, swindlers and quacks and especially servants, caught up in the games people play. The situations are often exaggerated, even improbable. Wonderfully funny, irresistible, effervescent, impudent and irreverent, thoughtful and poignant, are all accurate words to describe this historic form of theatre. "Kyogen is daring in its treatment of materials, a marvel in the art of pantomime and warm and compassionate in its commentary on the human condition.



The National Comic Theatre of Japan "Kyogen" comes to Dalhousie for one performance in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Friday, April 4 8:30 p.m.



Beckett and Genet plays to be presented by Theater Department

Dalhousie Cultural Activities announces an **extra performance** by the New London Ballet Company, with guest artists Dame Margot Fonteyn and Heinz Bosl. The performance will be a matinee on Tuesday, April 8, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at Dalhousie Central Box Office 424-2298. Box Office hours are 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

"Merely Modern" a collection of absurdist plays by Samuel Beckett and Jean Genet will be presented as the fourth major production of the year by the Dalhousie Arts Centre from March 27 to April 1, at 8:30 p.m. There will be no charge for admission, however, seating is limited and tickets must be picked up at the Dalhousie Central Box Office.

The three plays in the "Merely Modern" collection are "Happy Days" and "Play" by Samuel Beckett and "The Maids" by Jean

Genet. "Happy Days" presents the absurd situation (taken as normal) of a woman buried up to her neck speaking to her husband who is behind the mound she is buried in. "Plays" is an after-life piece. Three minds going over the relationships they had with each other during life. The actors do not address each other but respond to lighting cues. "The Maids" handles the interaction between two characters; one strong and one weak.

The theatre of the absurd

used non-sensical means to force the audience to see the illogic of the world. Man is asked to face the absurd nature of his own spiritual state. The theme of "Merely Modern" deals with self-deception, appearances, illusions, reality and images of ourselves and other people. Included in this production will be the performance of "Babel" especially created by Director Graham Whitehead and the third year Theatre students, and choreographed by Pat Richards. "Babel" works on the

intellectual premise that words and sounds are tools for communication.

The actors in all four pieces come from the third year class and are directed by Dr. Graham Whitehead, assistant professor in the Department of Theatre.

A generous grant from the Continuing Education Service of the Provincial Department of Education will allow "Merely Modern" to make a province wide tour of thirteen centres from the 9th - 24th of April.

Sherman Hines

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