

# Noon Hour Theatre

by Judith Pratt

Studio One in the Dalhousie Arts Centre provided the setting for this week's meeting of Noon Hour Theatre, featuring an informal symposium on professional drama in the Maritimes. This symposium was designed to provide Noon Hour Theatre members with an indication of what opportunities in the theatre or its related fields they could avail themselves of after graduation, and this the eight members of the panel did very well.

Chaired by Lionel Lawrence, who chiefly introduced the symposium members to the students, the discussions began abruptly with a reminder that, despite the love and dedication invested in the theatre as an art, those involved must never lose perspective of drama as a paying job. Although largely concerned with amateur work (he's a carpenter during the day) John Dunsworthy, artistic director of the Theatre Arts Guild, stressed this fact. His argument was strengthened by actress Flo Paterson, who performed in the Neptune hit, "John and the Missus". Flo Paterson discussed the insecurity of an actor's life, which undermines a performer when negotiating for a professional part.

Jody Briggs, executive director of the Nova Scotia drama league, stated that as a freelancing actor who also functions as a manager, an actor must lead "a very gypsy-like life style" and despite artistic involvement in a production, the theatre person must be conscious always of monetary negotiations. But pervading throughout these business-world intricacies, an actor, as Paterson says, will soon find acting emotionally necessary.

Robert Doyle, a renowned designer presently conducting a course at Dalhousie, the first of such designing-specialty courses in Canada, substantiated many of these points and offered advice for those students interested not only in acting but in the many other areas of drama. He teaches, he says, for a break from the chaos and tension of the theatre world, and as an instructor he can impart his knowledge and skills to student designers, while bringing his ideas into focus after blurring them in the hustling of the theatre world. Despite the negative notes on the hardships of the business, Robert, backed by the rest of the members, stressed the love and excitement of

the field as compensating for the struggles in the business world.

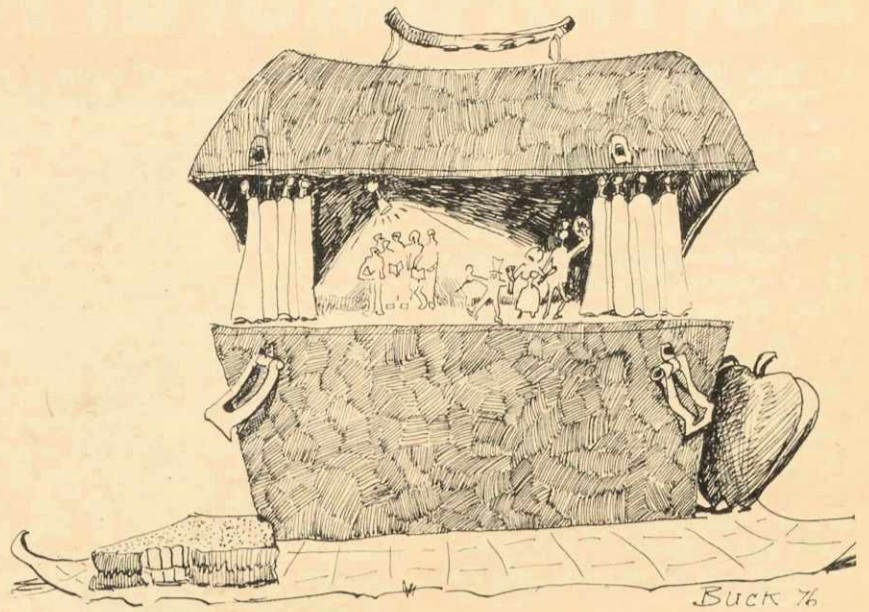
A novel avenue for graduating theatre students was presented by Betty Lucas who, after earning her teaching degree, won the newly-opened position of drama advisor for the Halifax School Board. In her new role, Betty talks to teachers in elementary and junior high schools and advises them in any dramatic productions they are undertaking. ATV is emphasizing this emergence of drama as a legitimate art form to be taught in high schools with a fourteen part program to be aired in February on drama in the high school curriculum.

Michael Ardenne, whose official title is Vice-President of the Canadian Child and Youth Drama Association, and Drama Advisor for the Department of Continuing Education for the province of Nova Scotia, was one of the first graduates of the theatre program at Dalhousie. He offers the government's services in workshops requested by groups and offers these people the opportunity to learn various aspects of the theatre by sending specialists to assist them.

Neptune actress, Joan Gregson also discussed with students the condition of Nova Scotia as a profitable area for actors. She has played a wide range of roles and is currently to appear in Neptune's "An Evening with Oscar Wilde", but claimed that the stage is narrowing in Nova Scotia, and believes she will have to explore other areas of Canada to realize her full potential as a dramatic artist.

Judging from the opportunities presented by this symposium and the enthusiasm generated by both panel and audience, the field of theatre study is lucrative in more ways than that of artistic gratification. As Robert Doyle concluded, "the arts has the onus of being slightly tawdry", but the involvement of these people in their community and the interest in the development of their art forbids the description of theatre as merely ornamental.

Noon Hour Theatre would like to alert the Dalhousie student body to the weekly meetings of their group on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in Studio One in the Arts Centre. These weekly meetings provide the theatre students with the opportunities of directing, acting, or providing technical assistance for productions, and they would welcome an



audience willing to help them analyse and criticize, aiming to improve their skills.

Next week, October 19, a directing project highlights Noon Hour Theatre with the production of an excerpt from Euripedes' "The Trojan Women". October 28 to 31 marks the theatre group's perfor-

mance of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night". Free tickets for this production, to be held at 8 p.m. in the Sir James Dunn Theatre, can be obtained beginning October 14 from the Central Box Office. There will also be an afternoon performance of the play on Saturday, October 30, at 2:00 p.m.

# Med students sing

by Cathy George

Now in its fourth big year, the Tupper Chorale was formed by musically inclined medical students who sought a director and invited music lovers of the Tupper "Tower" (other medical students, faculty members, library personnel and personnel of medically allied fields) to join them for a once weekly rehearsal of a wide range of musical works. The Tupper Chorale tackles such things as Madrigals, folk-songs, songs from light operettas, and contemporary works like "Godspell".

During its first two seasons, the Tupper Chorale was under the competent direction of Dennis Farrell of the Dalhousie Dept. of Music. Last year, with ease and expertise, the very talented Eleanor Ritcey May, also of the Dalhousie Dept. of Music, assumed the position of director vacated by Dr. Farrell as he took a year's sabbatical leave. Now, as Mrs. May joins her husband on the Faculty of Music of the

University of Regina, the Chorale executive has been forced to find another director. We have been very fortunate to secure the capable and dynamic services of Jim Farmer. Our accompanist, Maris Aquino, has been drawn from the ranks of our latest recruits, Medicine I.

Demonstrating its expertise and finesse as a performing choir, the Tupper Chorale, over its short history, has undertaken several hospital concerts, Christmas caroling for the students and faculty of the Tupper "Tower" and three successful performances at "Euphoria", the annual Medical School Variety Show.

So take a light-hearted but invigorating break from the grind and join us. Y'all come, y'hear!!!

The Baha'is at Dalhousie would like to tell you what the Baha'i World Faith is all about. Every Friday evening at 8 p.m. in room 424 of the SUB there is an informal gathering of friends to do just that. Everyone and anyone is welcome.



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