

Drama Society begins new season

by Sheelagh Russell

The UNB Drama Society, emerging from last year's season with performances of "Lysistrata", "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead", and "The Fantastiks" and last summer's successful Theatre on the Green, will begin a new season this weekend with the presentation of a group of one-act plays. Last weekend's performance was cancelled due to difficulties in presenting selections which had not yet enjoyed a North American premiere.

This weekend's plays are "Bedtime Story" by Sean O'Casey, "Dark Lady of the Sonnets" by George Bernard Shaw, "The Applicant" by Harold Pinter, and "Dionysus in Fredericton", an original play by a Frederictonian, Ted Givan. They will be presented at Memorial Hall on the campus at 8 p.m. on November 26 and 27.

The Drama Society has been active at UNB since 1897, with brief breaks in times of war and other emergencies, and has given a total of 138 performances. It has won forty-two awards in

various drama festivals, and has been invited to the Dominion Drama Festival four times, including its presentation of the plays "Inherit the Wind" and "Death of a Salesman".

The Society is advised by faculty member, Alvin Shaw, an executive member of the DDF, who has been with the society since 1952; and Professor Edward Mullally acts as a liaison between the group and the academic community.

The president of the UNB Drama Society is Richard McDaniel, with vice-president Lawrence Peters, second vice-president Janet Clarke, secretary David Etheridge, and business manager Hugh Connell. Set design is under the direction of Lawrence Peters, while the costumes are chosen by the individual directors of the plays themselves.

The Society is a hard-working group whose membership by the end of the season will probably be close to one hundred. The first performance, that of this weekend will involve approximately thirty actors and a backstage crew



graphics
by Mac Haynes

of twenty. The number of acting participants varies between thirty to fifty at any one time. As in most university organizations, financing and budget present problems that can only be surmounted with diligence and preparation for unforeseen difficulties. Rehearsal time for the different plays also vary. With such a play as "Dark Lady of the Sonnets", which was a Theatre on the Green presentation, rehearsals may be as seldom as twice a week, while a new play may require four or five rehearsals in the same time. A full-length play would require perhaps six rehearsals per week over a six-week period.

The policy of the Drama Society is to hold at least a fall and a spring performance, and last year a musical, "The Fantastiks" was also presented. This year there will be two performances, the one-act plays this fall, and in the spring, a full-length play, "The Disintegration of James Cherry".

Help James Cherry disintegrate in

an exciting



by Sheelagh Russell

James Cherry needs help disintegrating. The proposed spring production of the UNB Drama Society is Jeff Wanshel's "The Disintegration of James Cherry" a new play ten months old for which tryouts will be held next week. Participation in all aspects is necessary to make the play the success it deserves.

Our most complex presentation to date

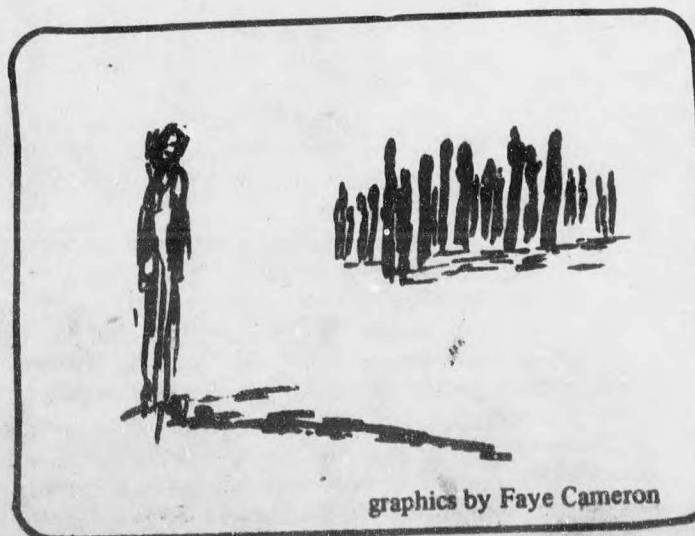
"The Disintegration" makes use of film, as well as live acting, complicated sound plotting, and can unusual light show to create a total environment. As the title implies, James Cherry will disintegrate as his "nightmare" unfolds from childhood on. He assumes the guilt of a number of deaths, including his sister's, of which he is innocent, and as the guilt is forced more and more upon him and his stupidity believes in this guilt, he becomes sick and paranoid. Finally, his "disintegration" is final as he is shot twelve times by a policeman.

Society president Richard McDaniel, who will direct the play, states that the main point of the play is to make the audience's eyeballs bleed not unpleasantly. But it requires all out participation than has been shown so far.

The play will be taken on tour, possibly to Saskatoon, and if not, to Bathurst for the regional finals, or it will tour the province. The trip to Saskatoon will take a group of twenty-five people, people who can both work and live well together.



A play to make your eyeballs bleed.



graphics by Faye Cameron

new
play

Twelve actors, seven male and five female are required for which tryouts will be held on December 1 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. There is also a need for people to take care of props, sound, lighting, makeup and publicity. Someone to work sound is needed almost immediately, and the others are needed before the end of the year, or as soon as term begins in January, at the Society offices in the Memorial Hall Basement.

Tryouts next week.

"The Disintegration of James Cherry" is technically the most complex presentation, from an audience viewpoint, that the Society has thus far attempted. It involves more work for everyone, but in terms of fulfillment, an equally large share. You never know what you can do until you try, so consider the tryouts on December 1 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall, or become another part of the crew.

Help James Cherry disintegrate.