

Poetry onstage is Heaven and Hell

W. HURST
Canadian Poetry Onstage, at Theatre Centre, translates the written word into a dramatic format. Sometimes this approach works and sometimes it doesn't. Produced by Buddies in Bad Times, the latest presentation consisted of two pieces--*Nirvana at Twilight* and *The Wedding March*.

Nirvana at Twilight, written by David McFadden, was a collection of sketches based on poems. The actors slipped on wigs, sweaters and name-tags to become differing voices for McFadden's vignettes. The diverse bits were held together by the ever-present 'poet', played by Bruce Latimer.

McFadden's ideas range from the mundanity of a bus driver to the oddity of a man who dresses up dead babies. Arlene Mazerolle and Chris-

tine McEachern whipped from humour to sadness with ease and conviction. Whether waitresses or orgiastic students, the actors clearly established the characters in moments.

The Wedding March, based on Susan Musgrave's poetry was a disjointed and slow as *Nirvana* was unified and quick. The actors had only one role each but they didn't sustain any of these. This was probably the fault of the script and direction, both by Jim Millan. In addition to the Musgrave work, *The Wedding March* confusingly included excerpts from James Joyce and the Bible. Two of the characters were facile targets for satire. Siobhan McCormick, as a dim teenager, exercised like crazy and then sat down to a snack of chips and pop. Rose Kutrara was a predictably silly housewife in furs and frost-tipped hairdo.

Millan might have had a unifying theme for *The Wedding March* but he kept it secret from the audience. The cast had to stop and start each segment when Alexandra Brown came forward to recite dialogue.

Brown, listed in the programme as Chorus, gave the lines the drama of a straight poetry reading. This was at odds with any attempt at narrative flow.

Buddies in Bad Times is one of a few real experimental theatre groups in Toronto. Their mandate is to take artistic risks. Canadian Poetry Onstage shows that sometimes they

can win and lose in the same evening. The series continues the week-end of January 27 with work by Judith Doyle and Eldon Garnet. For information, call 862-0659.

Mixing the night away at the go-go

JOEL GUTHRO
Hagar slacks are not necessary at the Polyester Party A-Go-Go, happening a week tonight, Thursday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. at Mac Hall in McLaughlin College. Presented by the burgeoning Babaloo Club which was founded by York Theatre student Peter Webster, the evening promises a varied menu: a fashion show with designs by Queen St. W. guru Tish Fletcher, a guest performance by dancer Donald Carr and live music by Stolen Property, all hosted by actor/director David Richards. And if that isn't enough, you can continue dancing until three in the morning accompanied by a DJ, 3,000 slides, six 19 foot by 3 foot screens and a light show called "Wildiffects".

"I've had experience at after hours clubs," explains Webster. "I helped promote the Spoons at the Twilight Zone last May." As well, he organized the Smashed Pumpkins party last Hallowe'en at Mac Hall. This time around he's presenting a show with "Ed Sullivan" pacing. And when he's finished, what little profit he expects will be going right back into the Babaloo Club, an after hours club opening at O'Bannions (Jarvis and Front) on Feb. 18 to assemble young artists and offer them exposure. Visual artists, dancers, actors, musicians and

filmmakers will be able to present their work, as will be done at Mac Hall next week.

The club isn't strictly intended for young cafe types with roll-your-owns. Like any after hours club, dancing is the highlight, with diverse entertainment presented by York students, graduates and many others. Webster has his fingers crossed.

As for next week's Polyester Party A-Go-Go, tickets for tundra land's insomnia party are available at the Fine Arts Building or in Central Square for \$3.50, or \$4.50 at the door.

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Black and white at Winters

MICHAEL KENNEDY

The students of FM101.8, first-year film production, are exhibiting a collection of black and white photographic prints in the Winters' Gallery every day this week, Jan. 24-28, 4-8 p.m.

Even though these intriguing images from the fresh minds of tomorrow's filmmakers are amazing in their exposition of the stark polarities of today's world as envisioned by the depressed November minds of Downsview Campus students, admission is free.

You'll find the lighting adequate, the carpet red, and the gallery hard to find, but the show is worth attending.

Seriously, this is probably one of the more unpretentious photo exhibits you'll encounter on campus and for that reason alone you should wander over to Winters and take a look.

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