

Les Feux Follets create life-like image

by Beth Burke

Alan Lund's production of Feux Follets captured the imagination of young and old alike during its appearance at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, September 26 and 27.

Feux Follets brings to life the culture and traditions of ethnic Canada. The carefully concocted mixture of folk songs and dances blended with colorful historic costumes leaves the audience breathless and begging for more. While some of the dances are closely authentic reproductions of the original ethnic forms, others depart only enough to give them new life.

Les Feux Follets starts with the Plains Indians who seem to have been transported from some ancient pow-wow for the occasion. Their costumes are magnificent with richly plumed headresses and elaborately embroidered

buckskins. Their dances reflect some of the pride and dignity of this highly individualistic nation.

Then come the settlers to subtly drive back the Indians in order to 'civilize' the West, and with them, of course, comes the railroad.

It is here that the audience is introduced to the versatile tenor voice of Bill Hosie on whose shoulders lies the task of unifying the song and dance sequences. As a singing narrator, Hosie belts out everything from a Gordon Lightfoot ballad to a Scottish love lilt and swinging sea shanties.

The troupe rushes through number after number as Russian immigrants kick up their heels, Acadian peasants click their wooden clogs and the Quebecois clack their spoons.

The second half of the



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program is just as thrilling as the first. A Hamatsa Indian youth is accepted into manhood, followed immediately by a repertoire of Scottish melodies as a tartan is woven. Next, Eskimos dance a traditional drum dance and even manage to capture the ever elusive seal.

The program winds up with a foot-stompin', back-slappin' goldminers jig and of course the evening would not have been complete without the gay spirited can-can of the dance hall girls.

Les Feux Follets captures the pioneering spirit of the nation with a power to sway even the most reluctant nationalist to a feeling of nostalgia and pride in Canada's cultural heritage. Even though Les Feux Follets only scratches the surface of the ethnic groups which contributed

to the creation of the Canadian image, it does succeed in capturing some of the spirit of our nation and our people.

Day care centre needs volunteers

The South End Day Care Centre located on University Avenue, is an L.I.P. project. It was organized by Social Planning with the idea that it would become a community controlled project. It has been funded for 28 children with 4 staff. A shortage arises when even one staff member

is away. Thus, we need people who are willing to volunteer time on a regular basis (even a couple of hours a week) or to be on call when an emergency arises. People interested are asked to call 425-3599 or 425-3998.



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