

arts

SMU Drama: a strong urge for flight

by Geoffrey Ineson

Dateline: The rehearsal before opening night. Director Gregory Heyn is in the middle of his umpteenth "Like it, don't like it" list. The cast sits, speaking sparsely amongst themselves as he address each member in turn.

Live Theatre

7 Stories

Written by Morris Panych

Directed by Gregory Hyne

The set is an apartment building's exterior: a window ledge. Window blinds hung from wire suspension provide an imaginative stage.

The final dress rehearsal begins. A well-dressed man is on the ledge, apparently to jump—suddenly—he is interrupted. A lawyer, no less, and his mistress involved in a bit of a tiff, crash onto the scene. Man, as he is listed as, has his sympathies drawn toward the rather absurd couple.

They talk, then the couple withdraw from the window. A gunshot follows shortly thereafter which draws more attention from the building's inhabitants.

Man (Peter Armstrong) moves about the ledge in a convincing, Hamletesque, state of morbid contemplation. Until, that is, he is interrupted by everybody's favourite stock character, the neurotic psychiatrist, played energetically by Bruce Hartlin.

And the story rolls on. Our hero Man continues to contemplate the final step, though continually is addressed by the apartment's inhabitants. Next on to the scene is a postmodern Texan oil man (Calvin Pollard), whom becomes aware of himself as an actor. As it turns out, the now pseudo Texan is marrying into a bizarre double-life, and the first question of identity is raised.

Sometimes comic, sometimes serious: "the interesting philosophical questions" are rich within the script. The neurotic psychiatrist offers an

expedient prescription to our hero's condition. And the lady behind window number nine has an interesting theological allegory (It is at St. Mary's you know).

David Erickson simply blew me away as the opinionated party goer. Yes, I was sitting at a sneak preview being persuaded from my critical pen by quality acting. But, but, but (to save critical face), I'm sure it's a structural device, employed by the author, called comic relief. And Joan (Anita David) plays a convincing victim of fashion.

The neighbours keep pouring out of the windows, and the hero is baraged with their problems. "Why don't you just go on with your lives", emphatically pleads our hero Man. "Why don't you just go on with your lines", emphatically pleads the director.

My first impression of the director was simply that he knows how to conduct a performance. When I first walked in about three minutes prior to the rehearsal, he was running through the final scene. This keeps the end fresh in the minds of the actors, and in essence, gives them a 'light at the end of the tunnel' to look for. A something to focus on.

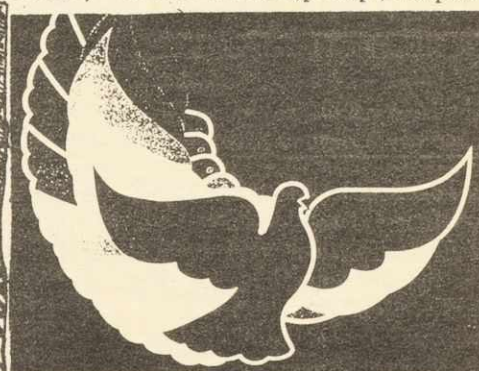
After a while, in a quieter mo-

ment with Lillian (Eileen Beck), we hear what brought our hero Man to the edge. As it seems, Man lost his identity to a routine existence, and quickly feels himself alienated from his very own life. But fear not fellow theatre buffs: he regains his identity as a pigeon.

The loss and regaining of identity

than originally met the eye. Two thumbs up, only that I have two to lend, to the Vancouver playwright Morris Panych. This play, incidentally, was first performed in 1989 Arts Club Theatre in British Columbia.

The literariness of this play is spectacular. There are, perhaps, two spots



is the story behind 7 Stories. And it is interesting to see how our hero Man is 'falling' all the time that he remains on the ledge. Man's disillusionment with life, as it is, or as it should be, can take him into a living hell. And certainly with the neighbours he has: hell could easily be on the sixth story. Or is Man even on a ledge? That his name is simply Man, I think raises the possibility that his being on the ledge is intensely allegorical, and that there is more here

in the play that seemed to lag toward the end. Though, that there was any lagging at all, is a tribute to the masterful execution of an energetic piece. A Must See!

The show will run from November 18th to the 21st in the Saint Mary's University Theatre Auditorium. Doors open at 7:30pm, performance begins at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$4 for students, and \$5 for everybody else.

SWEET DEAL II

...an even sweeter deal !!!

\$15.95*

*Plus taxes and Deposits where applicable.

FRESH DOUGH, NEVER FROZEN

- One 12" Greco works Pizza (or any 5 toppings)
- One 12" Garlic Fingers (with dipping sauce)
- Two litres of Pepsi
- Four Snickers Bars



GRECO

Not valid with other coupons or specials

GCC PRINTER REBATE!

Atlantis Microcomputer, Inc.

in conjunction with GCC Canada, is offering a special **\$100 rebate** on selected GCC printers!

BLP Elite

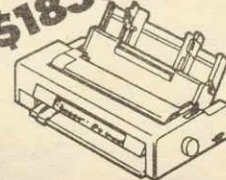
Built in AppleTalk and Adobe PostScript give you a low cost, networkable, high-quality laser printer!

* with manufacturer's rebate

We also have some PLP II Quickdraw laser printers for only \$971



\$1833!



WideWriter

With 360dpi resolution and the ability to print on paper as large as 17" by 22", the WideWriter is perfect for large-format printing, or as a fast, high-resolution plotter!

WriteMove II

We now have GCC's amazing new battery-powered, portable printer. With 360dpi resolution and weighing only 2.5lb, it's ideal for PowerBook users!



atlantis microcomputer inc.

Authorized Dealer

(902) 422-6556

1496 Lower Water St., Halifax, N.S. B3J 1R9

Special prices available only while quantities last.