

One of them has the jitters

Theater review by Heather Whitmore

I'd heard a lot about the 'Canadian' playwright David French, but I had never seen any of his plays. *Jitters*, at Stage West, was a great initiation.

If you don't know what it takes to put on a play, then this show is for you. If you don't know what acting at its best is, then this show is for you. If you don't know what dinner theatre is like, then this show is for you.

Jitters opens abruptly. We are plunged into the opening of the play only to find after a while that this isn't the play, but a play within a play. The subplot is about a theater production's opening night. In the audience is a big producer and a chance at Broadway. Act three of *Jitters* is about the day after opening night, when the actors are left alone with only the critics and each other.

Frances Hyland gives a magnificent performance as Jessica, the 'star' of the play within the play, and justly the 'star' of the play itself. She is a totally unselfish actress. Her part could have given her free reign over the other actors, but she waits for her moments and then ... look out! In the final act, her tirade against the critics is wonderful. Her timing is impeccable — she is a joy to watch. She savours one line and then spits out another like a bullet, especially at her fellow actor Patrick (played with a wonderful mixture of bitterness, cynicism and wicked fun by William Fisher). Their scene together that begins the second act is one of the finest moments of the play.

Looking for singers

The Edmonton Choral Society (formerly the Edmonton Symphony Chorus) is inviting new members to join them. They specialize in choral music performed with orchestral accompaniment.

The Society is currently working on several short, seasonal pieces. If they are able to meet their membership goals for this season, they will also be performing Schubert's "Mass in G" and Poulenc's "Gloria."

Two hour rehearsals are held every Tuesday under the direction of Robert Cook, present Director of Performing Arts for Alberta Culture.

The Edmonton Choral Society is most in need of basses, tenors and sopranos, but everyone is welcome. Interested persons are asked to contact Lois Sherbourne at 436-3227, or Linda Lees at 435-2763.

Richard Gishler, as the 'director,' spends his time pampering the whim of everybody and yet still manages to retain his integrity. Earl Klein, as the playwright, hugs his script and waits for the critics to see "the whites of his eyes." I especially liked Don Goodspeed as the novice actor, Tom; his performance was very subtle. I had the feeling that when Tom says he's learned a lot from Jessica, he really means that Don has learned a lot from Frances.

Howard Seigel as the tyrannical stage manager, Judy Buchan as Susie, and Terri Flanagan as the stage manager's assistant all turned in fine performances.

I had two reservations about the ending to the

second act. I felt that most of Phil's (Adrian Pecknold) long speech was unnecessary as it turns the "jitters" of the opening night into an anticlimax. Secondly, I found Adrian Pecknold a little hard to hear at the back of the theater where I was sitting. He made me feel a little uneasy wondering whether it was Phil, the character, fumbling for his lines, or Adrian, the actor.

William Fisher, the actual director, has given us a splendid production. For the sake of Peggy, the stage manager's assistant who bemoaned the fact that reviewers never mention props, lighting or set, I will. All were excellent. If you're interested in theater, don't miss *Jitters*.

Teaching the art of vision

Mime review by Peter Miller

You sit expectant, contemplating the stark backdrop. The mime appears, dressed in white and framed against black drapery. He steps forward and what follows is forty minutes of spellbinding discovery.

"Explorations in Corporal Mime," created by Gloria Perks and performed by Deborah Skelton and Irving Rollinger of the Academy of Corporal Mime, seeks to express fundamental facts of human experience through the manipulation of spatial relationships.

An opening demonstration of body movement by Deborah Skelton throws into relief the astonishing complexity and diversity of motion we have all perhaps taken for granted since birth. "Duo I" multiplies this revelation as Skelton and Rollinger work through a presentation of two people whose respective persona are distinct, then on the verge of contact, then interwoven. Spatial and psychological tension bind the whole and give it an extraordinary unity.

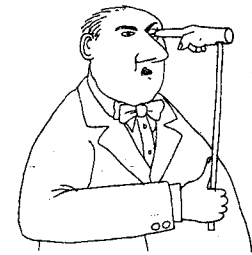
In the course of this performance, striking physical metaphors of work and of sudden awareness are created, causing the mime to become Man, rather than simply an individual. If the other arts can be said to deal with what men do and think, Mime might be said to deal most closely with the first fact of our being: our physical existence.

Particularly interesting is Skelton's "Solo work with a Stick" in which a long white baton becomes

sequentially a part of the body, an opposing counterweight to it, then a disparate element, almost ignored.

The program finishes with a reworking of "Duo I," this time giving the audience a different physical point of view of the movements. A simple change of orientation opens up a wealth of new meaning in what is being represented. If we are willing to accept the gift that is offered, the mime may quite possibly teach us how to see. This is a superb and moving performance, leaving one with a muted awe, rather than loud exclamation of enthusiasm.

Performances run Saturdays, November 10, 17, 24 and December 1 at 8:00 p.m. in the studio of the Academy of Corporal Mime, #303, 10048-101A Avenue. Tickets are three dollars and go on sale between 12 noon and 4 p.m. on the day of the performance. Seating is restricted to 18 places, so early ticket pickup is advised.



Hire A Student Co-ordinators

The Edmonton Hire-A-Student Society is a co-operative program designed to meet the summer employment needs of both the student and business community.

The Society requires three co-ordinators:

- (1) Co-ordinator/Operations
- (2) Co-ordinator for Student and Employer Visitations
- (3) Public Relations Co-ordinator

Under the direction of the Director, duties in areas (1) and (2) involve assisting in: selection, training, supervision and discipline of staff and developing management policies and procedures. Responsible for planning, preparing, implementing programs and monitoring staff and procedures in sections. Requires reporting to Director and Committee and liaising closely with them.

Duties in area (3) involves planning, preparing, implementing programs, working with various groups, organizing and presenting all publicity material including advertising and working with all forms of media.

Responsible for monitoring and reporting on operation of program and making evaluations. Requires liaising closely with committee, Director and staff.

Qualifications: Must be a post-secondary student. Requires the ability to supervise, plan and organize, analyze and evaluate in order to make decisions; must be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; must show a high degree of motivation, versatility, enthusiasm and possess effective interpersonal skills as well as good public presentation. Access to transportation is an asset.

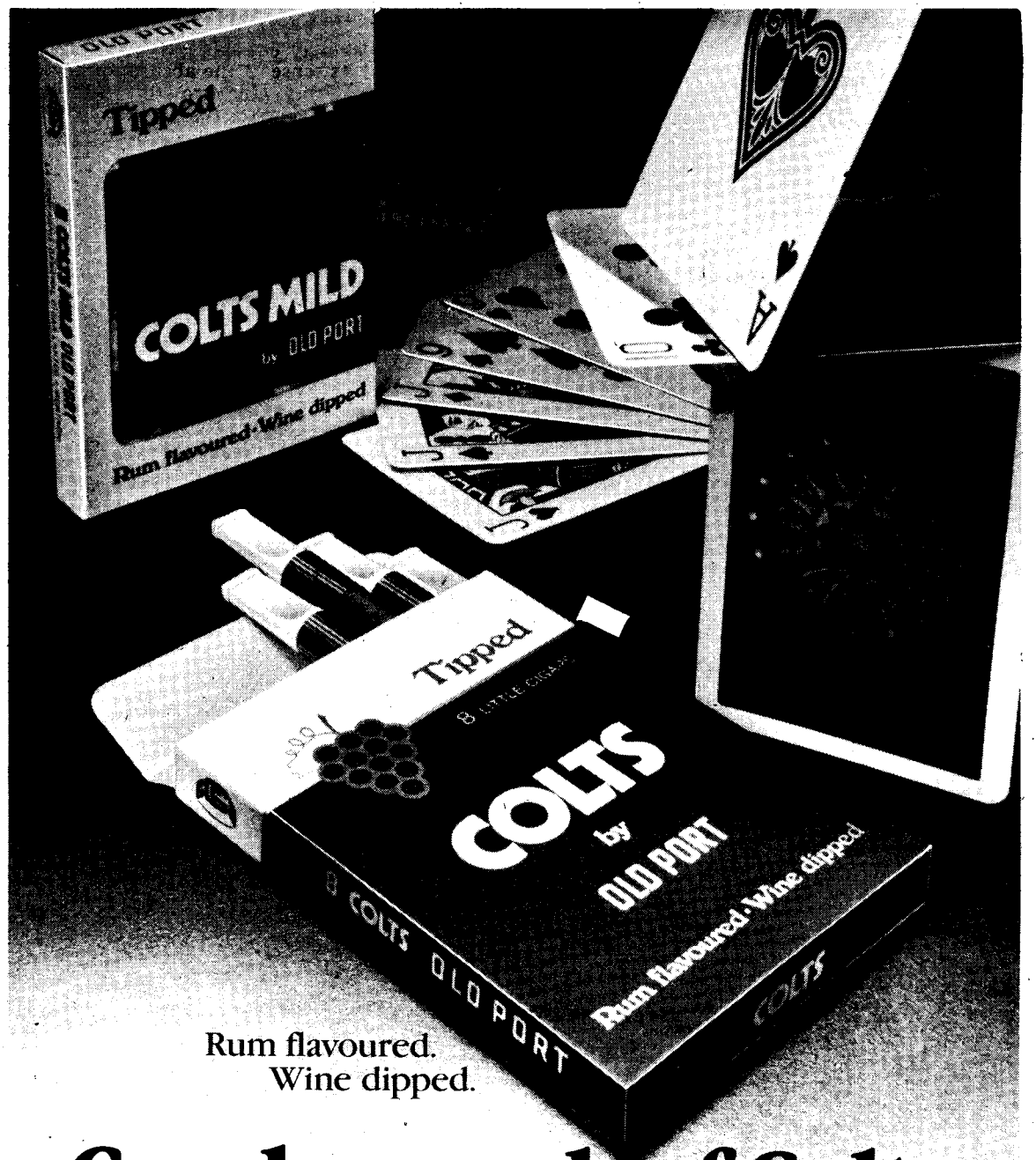
Remuneration — Part time — \$200.00/month — Full time — \$1,000.00/month

Term — January 1 - April 30 — Part time — (approximately 20-40 hrs./mo.)

Term — May 1 - August 8 — Full Time — (37.5 hrs. per wk.) — with a possible extension

Apply at — Canada Employment Office on Campus

Closing Date — November 28, 1979.



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