

# WOMEN ARE LIKE THAT LIKE WHAT FOR INSTANCE

A comic opera, just in case you haven't heard, is coming to Fredericton. *WOMEN ARE LIKE THAT* will be opening next Tuesday night at the Fredericton High School Auditorium, curtains parting at 8:30 p.m. But don't wrinkle your nose! This is not going to be "one of those crazy mixed-up operas." It won't be that serious incomprehensible stuff; it's not put on by a cast of thousands, all singing their lungs out in some foreign language; and it's not full of barrel-chested women, who have eaten too much pizza, nor effeminate looking men, who faint at the sight of blood. No! The Canadian Opera Company is coming to clear up all these misconceptions. First of

all, the show is a comedy all about unfaithful women. It's in simple English, with a cast that can sing, and who have had considerable acting experience. And most of all, the cast—of eight—consists of good healthy human specimens: the women, "broad where broads should be broad", and the men either epitomizing masculinity or disguised as Albanian gigolos.

The show itself is light-hearted and even farcical. It's all about a couple of fellows called Ferrando and Guglielmo, who test the faithfulness of their fiancées, respectively Dorabella and Fiordiligi, better known as Pretty Dora and Lily Flower. (With names like that, you couldn't expect

much constancy or seriousness from them.) The two men made a bet with Don Alfonso, an elderly cynic, who although he has great respect for the weaker sex, thinks no woman can be trusted. The women are received into believing that their lovers have gone off to battle, and are thereafter "conned" by same, who are disguised as a couple of Albanians. Their plot is assisted by Despina, a saucy mix of a maid, who is a willing schemer—if the bribe is right. Dorabella loses her heart unrepentently, but Lily Flowers always has some scruples. It takes superior efforts on Ferrando's part to overpower her principles. (These eighteenth century Neapolitan methods of persuasion or "lines" offer a challenge to any U.N.B. male.) The cats, allegedly away at war return to catch their mice at play. Panic! After feigned anger, the two male protagonists are reconciled with their two embarrassed women and all ends happily.

Whether you think women are like that or not, the comic opera, written by Lorenzo Da Ponte to the music of Mozart, is bound to be delightful entertainment. The Creative Arts Committee of U.N.B. cordially invites everyone to attend. After allocations to students at U.N.B. are met, tickets at \$2.00 each will be available to the public at the Craft Shop, Herby's Music Store and Hall's Bookstore beginning Wed., Jan. 23th.



"Well, I could be bribed . . .", quips the mischievous Kathryn Newman of *The Canadian Opera Company* as a saucy maid in *Women Are Like That* which will be brought to Fredericton High Auditorium on January 29th by the Creative Arts Committee.



"Are you sure there are no strings attached?"

## WHO'S WHO & HOW

by L. E. Rozovsky (resident critic)

The zippiest opera company in Canada has crushed the frowns miles a year to over 65 cities in Canada.

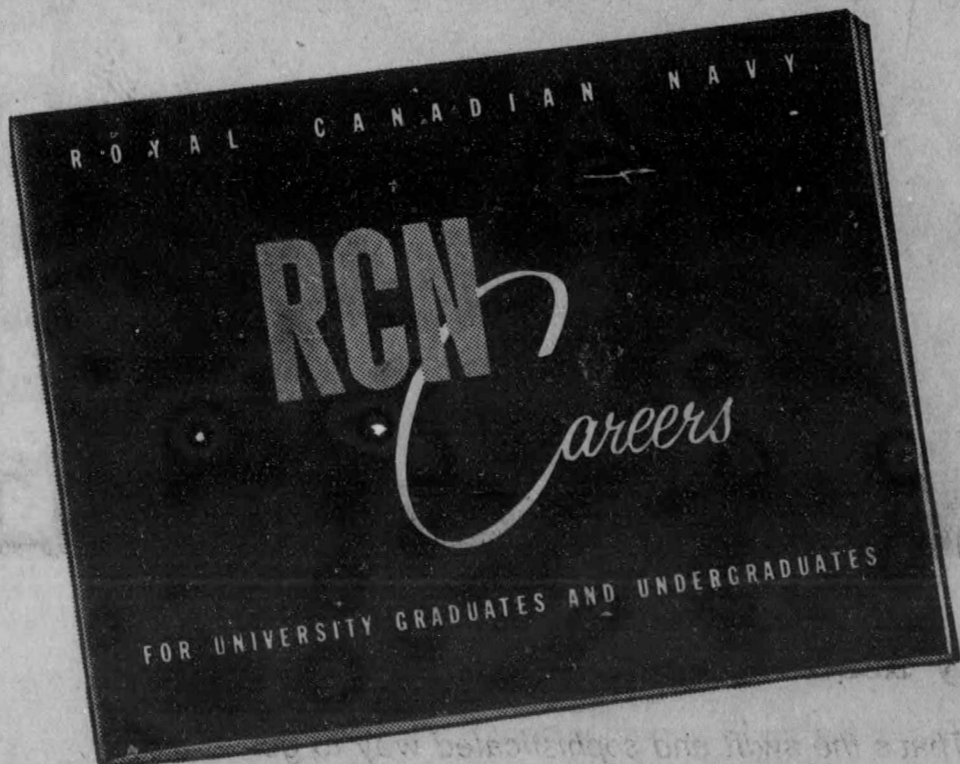
of the gloom 'n doom boys. They all said it couldn't be done. Such a sprawling country with so few people as Canada could never support such an august body as an opera company. But Geiger-Torel, the General Manager (and internationally famous director and conductor) and his colleagues have not only built such a body, they have actually been entertaining people with this thing called opera. Two years ago when the Canadian Opera Company moved from the Victorian guided Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto to the flashy O'Keefe Centre, the place was mobbed! 95% capacity audiences (out of 3200 seats) greeted the troupe. Opera had become entertainment.

It has taken a long time to achieve this, but with such greats as Geiger Torel, Ernesto Barbini (formerly of the "Met" in New York), and Dr. Boyd Neil (of the Royal Conservatory) as guiding lights, how could they lose? They say greats produce greats and from the COC have come the famous *Robert Goulet* (of Broadway renown), *Teresa Stratas* (star of the Met and La Scala, Milan), and *Jon Vickers* (of Covent Garden). Just as these singers have wowed audiences all over the world with the Canadian Opera and other companies, the performers who will appear in Fredericton are famous for the razzle-dazzle of the world's greatest variety show—the comic opera.

There is Peter Van Ginkel (as Don Alphonso) who appears in Beethoven's "Ninth" this month in Montreals Forum. He has also starred at Montreals "Au Lutin Qui Bouffe" nightclub. W have (they had to leave some of it), Arlene Meadows, fresh from the stratford smash hit of "Pinafore", too!, and all kinds of odds 'n ends 'n junk into a bus. Off they went into the wilds! Off they went to the Maritimes. After the bravoes died down, the Company realized that Toronto was not the only place that liked the zip-bang entertainment called opera. The West also lapped it up. And now the Canadian Opera Co. travels over 17,000 It's quite a cast!

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