

# WOMAN AS ROCK

COMPELLING SOUTH AFRICAN PLAY COMES TO FREDERICTON

Theatre New Brunswick InterAct and CUSO present *You Strike The Woman, You Strike The Rock* a challenging new play on an international tour from South Africa, at The Playhouse, Fredericton on Tuesday,

November 7 at 8:00 pm. "From the explosive beginning to the inspirational ending, *You Strike The Woman, You Strike The Rock* is a play that will not let your conscience rest. This is not a play at which one can sit back and

tune out." (Lana Cullis, *The Peak*, July 28, 1988)

The play explores in a realistic, often humorous vein, the dilemma of South African women caught between the politics of their country and the needs of their families. Through the songs and stories of the three-woman cast, life under apartheid comes to the stage. The characters hawk their chickens, oranges and fatcakes on the streets, as they talk about their lives and the lives of the women around them. Music is used extensively. It is strong, emotional and exciting, acting as a cohesive force in the production.

*You Strike The Woman, You Strike The Rock* is being presented under TNB's InterAct mini-series of four shows. "Frederictonians are truly fortunate that the Vusizwe Players are

able to fit a Playhouse performance into their busy touring schedule, and I urge people who think of theatre as a vital, provocative and humanizing force their community to attend. Cooperative action between InterAct and CUSO represents a model I hope to repeat in the future with other organizations. It is going to be a wonderful and special evening. All I can say is BE THERE!" says TNB artistic director Sharon Pollock.

"Bringing this play to Fredericton accomplishes several things," says Beth Paynter, CUSO Provincial Coordinator. "This play is a quality piece and has received excellent reviews on its international tour. Not only are we presenting good theatre well deserving of a good audience, but it also brings new perspective of the problems

and challenges facing women who are forced to try to raise a family under apartheid. CUSO is working with women around the world, helping them to improve the lives of their families and their communities. We are sponsoring this play as a fundraising event and we will use the money raised to fund on-going women's projects in Southern Africa. I am hoping this show will be well attended, the audience will see a superior production and support a good cause."

*You Strike The Woman, You Strike The Rock* will play for one night only in Fredericton, on November 7 at the Playhouse, tickets are \$10 and are on sale now at the Playhouse Box Office, 686 Queen St. TNB InterAct Mini-Series subscriptions are also on sale for \$32 for four plays.

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## B\*A\*G STRUTS (NEW) STUFF

From November 1 - December 30, The Beaverbrook Art Gallery features an exhibition in the Annex Gallery entitled *New to the Collection* which includes works acquired by the Gallery since the November 1985 Auction. Contemporary works by HERZL KASHETSKY, DAVID UMHOLTZ and WYNONA MULCASTER and historical works by ROBERT FIELD and LIEUTENANT SMYTH are *New to the Collection*. Funds realized in the 1985 auction helped to make it possible for the Gallery to purchase these works.

HERZL KASHETSKY is an important Saint John figurative painter who has heretofore not been represented in the Collection. KASHETSKY's *From the Family Album...* was a work which the jury selected for The Beaverbrook Art Gallery's 1987 N.B. McCain Art Competition. It reflects KASHETSKY's interest in vintage photographs to furnish the motif for a painting. The painting is taken from a 1916 photograph in the Main Street of Saint John and portrays immigrant Jewish families from Saint John and Fredericton who settled in New Brunswick in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

The large acrylic polymer on canvas is enhanced by two studies for the work, one in graphite and chalk on paper and the other, a watercolor.

Also *New to the Collection* is an acrylic and collage composition by the Deer Island New Brunswick artist, DAVID UMHOLTZ, *Grand Manan 1985*. It is an abstract pictorial representation of the infamous *Hole-in-the-Wall-Rock*. Though it has a topographical reference, it is primarily concerned in the vocabulary of form and color.

The work *Homeland*, 1985 by Saskatchewan artist, WYNONA MULCASTER extends The Beaverbrook Art Gallery's representation of Canadian prairie landscape painters which includes ERNEST LINDER, IVAN EYRE and L.L. FITZGERALD.

MULCASTER commented: *The life energy of a painting is very often embedded in the contradictions within it....*

Three works of Maritime interest from the first half of the 19th century have recently been acquired. *Portrait of a Naval Officer 1818*, by ROBERT FIELD (1769 - 1819) is the latest dated work recorded by this artist.

Also, *New to the Collection* are two delicate watercolour and pencil drawings by LIEUTENANT WILLIAM SMYTH, Royal Navy, showing the aborted Arctic expedition of 'Terror' under the command of Captain George Beck in 1836.