

# Theatre

*It's not just for  
dinner anymore!*

This young company, under the umbrella of Theatre UNB, entered the scene in the fall of 1991. It was created by students from the English 2140 drama course, in an attempt to continue their onstage involvements. Their first offering *You Can't Take It With You* appeared in the spring of 1992. Following this acclaimed production the membership of Stage Left, with the exception of one, completed their course of studies and departed UNB. Through mutual connections in theatre Nova Lea Thorne, the remaining member, and Paula Dawson joined forces in the fall of 1992.

The decision of Dawson and Thorne to participate in Theatre UNB's "A Night of Coarse Acting" resulted in an open call for auditions which supplied a strong and talented membership base for the new Stage Left. Since the play *All's Well That Ends As You Like It*, there have been four more successful productions: *The Anniversary* (Jan. 1993), *Orpheus* (April 1993), *Discontinuous* (Oct. 1993), and UNB's first fringe festival *At Play* (Oct. 1993). With the new academic term Stage Left is preparing to present offering number six, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is Dale Wasserman's stage adaptation of Ken Kesey's novel of the same name. The play follows Randle P. McMurphy, the newest admittance to a psychiatric hospital. He brings with him a set of pornographic playing cards and a gambler's angle to transform the stifling and repressive atmosphere of the hospital with his own, unique therapy. He clashes with the clinical head nurse, Miss Ratched: a full-



bosomed witch hiding behind the precepts and theories of the "Therapeutic Community." McMurphy, while draining his fellow inmates of their personal finances, teaches them that basketball games and drunken parties can do more for the human spirit than support groups. The flock of patients on the ward, each with their own brand of neurosis, must come to grips with this new "maniac" and admit to their own sanity.

While audiences are familiar with the work of the players onstage the players offstage are often little recognized. In addition to the talented cast performing *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is an equally talented production crew. So here is a brief introduction to some of the key people involved backstage, their experiences, roles and thoughts on *Cuckoo's Nest*.

"Theatre is a compulsive thing."

- The Director - Paula Dawson

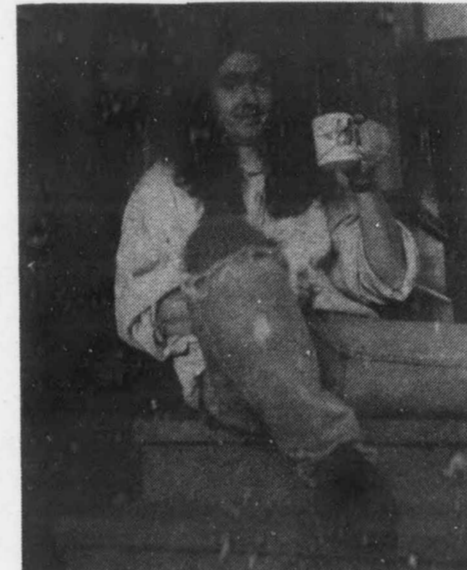
When not honing her considerable skills as a dancing cocktail waitress and singing chicken, this Fourth Year Political Science student spends the majority of her time avoiding her thesis to concentrate on her fine arts minor in theatre. Involved in theatre as an actress, playwright and director since high school, Paula has previously directed *The Anniversary* and *All's Well That Ends As You Like It* for Stage Left, as well as taking on acting roles in *A Couple of White Chicks Sitting Around Talking* for Theatre Fredericton; *Orpheus*, *The Bear*, and *The Real Inspector Hound* for Theatre UNB, and most recently "Crossroads" in Stage Left's recent *At Play* Theatre Festival.

"This is the strongest cast I've ever worked with; an *All-Star* line-up of people."

-The Producer, Nova Lea Thorne

Double cast in the role of producer and full-bosomed shrew, the ever busy Ms. Thorne is already gearing up

to produce her next show, the Gilbert & Sullivan Society production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* taking place this April. A Fourth Year business student with a minor in Theatre Studies, Nova Lea has the distinction of being the only founding member of Stage Left still extant; she has been involved in Stage Left production in the group's three year history, as actor, producer, and stage manager. She has worked as an actor for Theatre New Brunswick's Summer Stage, Stage managed Theatre Fredericton's *Cinderella Meets the Phantom of Fredericton* Christmas Pantomime, and acted in productions of *Three Penny Opera*, *The Crucible*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and most recently



Thank God for Devin; somebody has to figure out how all this stuff works. Devin is a Fourth Year Electrical Engineering Student who has been moonlighting as a Theatre Technician for the past eight. He has been a Stage Technician and Master Electrician for Theatre New Brunswick, Assistant Technical Director for Ste. Anne Community Centre, and Head Electrician for the Sunshine Theatre. He has been a Stage Manager for TNB's Young Company, and the technical director/Head Carpenter for Stage Left's productions of *The Anniversary*, *Orpheus*, and *Discontinuous*.

Stage Left is a student union organization which is open to all students and produces both original and published works. Anyone who has an interest in being involved with Stage Left, whether it be as part of the cast onstage or as part of the crew offstage, should contact either Paula Dawson at 457-3840 or Nova Lea Thorne at 457-1934.

by Ina Wank

**Photos of the Stars:** Sitting atop this column is Stage Left member Eric Hill. Centre page are Mike Fralic, Jon Jurmain, Matthew Tierney, Heather Brander, Michael Ingram and Bill McKibbon. The drama that is Jon Jurmain, far left.



## A day in the life of a play...

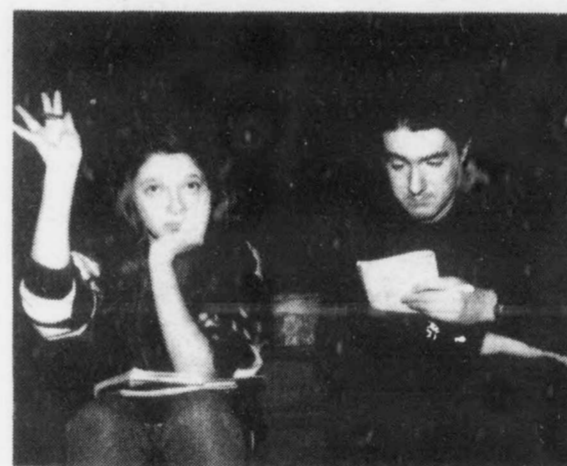
7:00 am Phone call from the technical director to the director to suggest newest design change in the set, this time to recommend that the windows must open out instead of in, "in order to preserve the 'aesthetic functionality' of the set."

7:02 am Director hangs up and hits the snooze button.

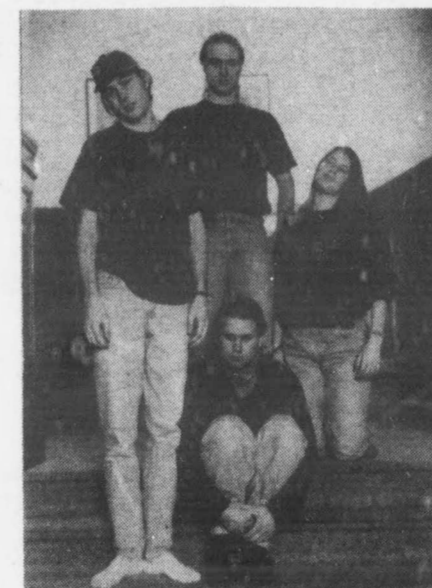
11:00am Set construction for the day begins, including cutting, hammering, screwing, gluing, detaching, attaching, painting, cursing, smoking and then cutting again. Keep in mind the whole set must be designed, built, painted, constructed on the stage and then painted again. The lighting must be designed, the lights aimed in the correct spots, the sound effects taped and programmed into the computer, microphones set up on stage and...

12:00pm ...lunch. Maybe.

1:00-5:00pm Hunting for props. *Cuckoo's Nest* presents particularly interesting prop obstacles: straitjackets,



Even more photos! Near left this page, Paula Dawson and Eric Hill emote. Bottom left, cast members Michael Brooks, Rodger Wilkie, Melissa Clark, Devin Jain and Jason Meldrum. Directly below are cast members Matthew Tierney, Rodger Wilkie, Heather Brander and Michael Ingram.



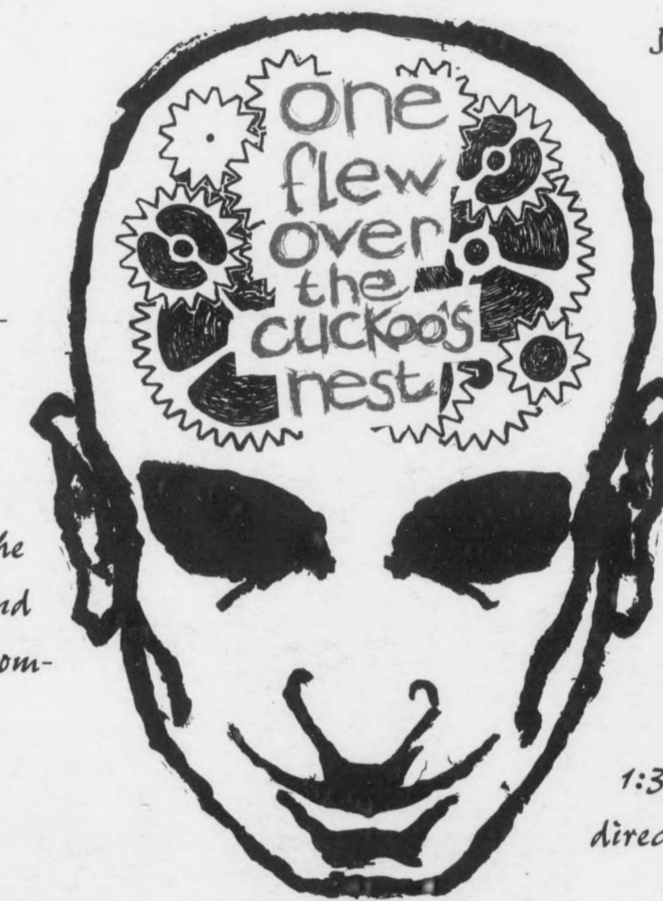
wheelchairs and various other sundry hospital supplies. Somehow Devin will obtain these at no cost to the company. Find other prop items such as pornographic playing cards, television set, folding chairs, tables, board games, basketball, enema bag, proper shoes...

5:30pm ...supper. Maybe.

7:00-10:00pm Rehearsal. Schedule twenty minutes and three dollars in change to call absentees and latecomers. Run a two minute scene 15 times to get the timing "just right." Break. Run scene five more times with latecomers. Drink lots of coffee, try to remember your lines, try not to bump into the furniture and keep the emotion up through the next 15 takes of a scene. Bring a book.

1:30am Phone call from technical director to director to say he was wrong about the windows.

1:33am Sleep. Maybe.



### Cast

#### In Order of Appearance

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chief Bromden.....      | Mike Fralic        |
| Aide Warren.....        | Don Forestall      |
| Aide Williams.....      | Dan Herman         |
| Nurse Ratched.....      | Nova Lea Thorne    |
| Nurse Finn.....         | Melinda Arseneau   |
| Dale Harding.....       | Matthew F. Tierney |
| Billy Bibbit.....       | Scott Tibbo        |
| Scanlon.....            | Michael Brooks     |
| Cheswick.....           | Michael Ingram     |
| Martini.....            | Jason Meldrum      |
| Ruckley.....            | Rodger Wilkie      |
| Fredericks.....         | Derek Winchester   |
| Sefelt.....             | Clark Graves       |
| Randle P. McMurphy..... | Jonathon Jurmain   |
| Dr. Spivey.....         | Melissa B. Clark   |
| Aide Turkle.....        | Bill McKibbon      |
| Candy Starr.....        | Rebecca Emlaw      |
| Technician.....         | Tina Buott         |
| Sandra.....             | Pat Rogers         |

Curtain 8pm

January 26-29 Memorial Hall