

A man's successful struggle

# Dancer Rene Highway celebrates his history

Olly Wodin

In one bare-walled Toronto studio, Rene Highway has been anxiously testing steps to be taught at rehearsal. This native Canadian Cree has choreographed *New Song...New Dance*, a collaborative work which premieres at Harbourfront on November 11.

For this dance-drama, Rene has worked with his composer-musician brother, Tomson and stage designer and friend, Robert Houle. These men will tell a story they know well. *New Song...New Dance* depicts the native spirit, beginning with life on the

reservation. The collaborators portray the experience of "going into a foreign culture and coming out of it on the positive side," according to Rene Highway.

Rene and Tomson were gradually exposed to this 'foreign culture'-the urban world. Raised on the Brochet Reserve, Rene moved to the Guy Indian Residential school in The Pas and then onto high school in Winnipeg.

In Winnipeg, Rene saw theatrical dance for the first time when he saw the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He remembers "There - was this

incredible dancing, this energy." He started regular classes at the ballet company school. "I guess they thought I was kind of strange, you know, a guy taking ballet," he said.

Two years later, Rene Highway moved to Toronto to study, teach and perform, notably with Toronto Dance Theatre. He has danced across Canada and in America, England, and Denmark. "Nobody ever made a thing about the fact that I was a native person. It was one reason why I stood out. People noticed me - a native person in dance. One had never been seen in many places," he said.

In summers of 1981 and 1982, Rene Highway taught and performed at the Navajoland Festival of the Arts in Arizona. In 1982, he also first collaborated with his brother Tomson on two short pieces, which were performed at the World Assembly of First Nations in Regina. It was Tomson who first suggested

*New Song...New Dance* and who wrote the guidelines for the work.

In rehearsal for the Harbourfront show, Rene hovers over a cassette machine, beating the floor to the pulses of the percussive and often atonal musical score.

The dance opens with the five man cast in two lines advancing downstage with firm, even steps. Although the music and dance rhythms begin independently, the dancers feet accelerate to meet the music and stamp into a powerful rhythmic whole.

Desired effect

Tomson's musical composition combines piano with some Cree drumming. Rene also uses a combination of various techniques and Cree dance styles and whatever else he deems necessary to communicate his desired effect.

The lines, circles and diagonals in

the choreography are simply and clearly drawn. There is much team work in rehearsal, whether in a series of body rolls performed flat on the ground or in the creation of a group circular form.

The choreographer's gentle voice guides his cast through his images-the curves of the lake and sky and the angularity of the city. In this angularity, the bodies tense, struggling along a path and meeting unknown obstacles on deserted streets. This effective choreography dramatizes what many native Canadians experience in the "white man's city."

Rene Highway said, "People dance because they like what it feels like. The audience should like what it sees and get something out of it without thinking too hard about it."

But Rene Highway's *New Song...New Dance* will focus on something we haven't learned in The Canadian Society 101.

**Study In Jerusalem**  
The Hebrew University offers courses in English

for Canadian Students in a special ONE YEAR PROGRAM  
for Graduates and Undergraduates  
Summer courses also available  
Students with knowledge of Hebrew may apply as Regular Students  
Scholarships available for qualifying students

for application and information write:  
Academic Affairs Committee  
Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University  
Suite 208, 1 Yorkdale Road  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6A 3A1

or phone (416) 789 - 2633

CREEPSHOW TRIVIA CONTEST

## Enter quiz-win passes and prizes

To mark the latest incarnation of the horror film--George Romero's and Stephen King's *Creepshow*--and to give our readers some freebies, *Excalibur* and Warner Brothers are offering a free double pass to the top 25 entrants in our horror trivia contest.

In addition, the five most correct entries win *Creepshow* T-Shirts, the next best five win posters and the next three win comic adaptations.  
Good luck!

1. Which Academy Award winning actor appeared in *The Little Shop of Horrors*?
2. Name the famous trio of actors who first played Dracula, the Frankenstein monster and the Wolfman in American sound films.
3. The Man of a Thousand Faces

made only one sound picture. What was it?

4. *The Shining* was the third Stephen King novel to be turned into a film, the first two were...?

5. What was the *Exorcist's* character name?

6. In what domicile did *The Haunting* occur?

7. Name the ship upon which the *Alien* stalked.

8. The story "Who Goes There" was What was the title of the film and who directed it?

9. Director George Romero has already made the first two films of a projected 'zombie trilogy'. What are they?

10. What tune did Peter Lorre whistle in *M* before he killed each victim?

11. *Willard* had a favorite rat (don't we all). What was its name?

12. Who animated the model of *King Kong*?

13. Which character's mind created

the insidious monster from the id? 14. What kind of monster was Ardat Bey?

15. Before starring as Little Joe or a prairie papa, Michael Landon played a lycanthrope in what film.

Rules: Contest open to all York students, staff and faculty except *Excalibur* staff and their relatives. --All answers must be received in a marked envelope no later than November 19 at 5 p.m. in the *Excalibur* office Room 111 Central Square.

--Include name, student number, address and telephone number with all entries. There is no limit to the number of times one person may enter but no person can win more than one set of prizes.

--Answers and winners will be announced in upcoming issues of the *Excalibur*.

In the event of a tie for prizes, the winner will be selected from a random draw between the tied entrant.

--Decisions of the judges are final.

Conceived and compiled by Richard Gotlib

Toronto's Top Rock Club  
PROUDLY PRESENTS  
**STAB**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
November 11-13  
**Oliver Heaviside**



Coming Soon  
**Goddo**

No cover charge Mondays.  
Naughty Nightly Night Wednesdays

Spat's at the **Abert INN**  
534 Rexdale Blvd. @ Hwy. 27 • 675-3101  
Across from the Woodbine Racetrack.

10 *Excalibur* November 11, 1982

**Gypsy** HOLIDAY INN YORKDALE

Now Featuring  
**BOBBY GRIFFITH**  
Monday Nov. 8-Saturday Nov. 13



Next Week-Cherrill Rae  
Cover charge Friday & Saturday  
Saturday Ladies Night  
Holiday Inn Toronto - Yorkdale  
Dufferin St. & Hwy. 401  
789-5161

WE CAN HELP YOU PREPARE FOR: **OUR 44th YEAR**

MCAT  
LSAT • GMAT  
GRE • GRE PSYCH  
GRE BIO • SAT  
DAT • VAT • OCAT  
MAT • PCAT  
NAT'L MED BDS  
NDB • NPB • NLE  
ECFMG • FLEX  
TOEFL  
VQE

**Stanley H. KAPLAN**  
EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF CANADA LTD.

The test preparation specialist since 1938  
COME VISIT OUR CENTRE  
Call Days, Eves. & Weekends  
**967-4733**  
720 Spadina Ave. Suite 410  
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2T9  
Other Centers in More Than 100 Major U.S. Cities & Abroad