

Glendon's beyond Mozambique

Mad laughter escapes from a bloody world

PAUL PIVATO
Imagine an ex-Mountie with a fetish for young girls trying to strangle a half-Jewish, half-Chinese homosexual priest on a stage strewn with human guts. So goes *Beyond Mozambique*, a black comedy by George F. Walker, to be performed at Theatre Glendon from February 22 through February 26.

"Don't be offended by the blood," warns playwright George F. Walker, a grin on his face. "There's a whole

nightmare of worse things going on beneath the surface. It's really a play about blood inside the head." Walker points to his head and smiles.

Beyond Mozambique, written with an episodic structure, concerns six obsessive "B-movie" characters living in a jungle on the verge of apocalyptic doom. "In those old B-movie melodramas, there is so much ugliness underneath: racism, sexism, imperialism. I put B-movie stereotype characters in a much funnier and more desperate situation," explains Walker. "The result was black comedy."

The play was first produced at Toronto's Factory Theatre Lab, in 1974. Walker himself directed a subsequent production in 1977. Since then the play has been staged across Canada and the United States

and is currently playing in Australia. At present Walker is busy directing his latest piece, *The Art of War*, which opens the same week as *Beyond Mozambique* at Factory Theatre Lab.

The characters in *Beyond Mozambique* are all haunted by guilt, by their pasts, as they struggle to make some sense of their lives. They live in a world of chaos and violence, fraught with evil. "There's so much violence," claims Walker, "that it drives them to laughter."

Director Stephen Devine, a fourth-year York theatre student, agrees: "It's pretty dark, grotesque stuff, but it's also brutally funny. You laugh and then think: My God, that's really horrible. It isn't Neil Simon."

The play, cast with mostly Glendon students, will not recoup

production costs, but Devine is not concerned. "We have to produce Canadian works or no one is going to continue writing," he stresses.

Devine, who acted in a production of Walker's *Sacktown Rag* four years ago, believes Walker is one of Canada's best playwrights. Initially, Walker received negative criticism, but lately he has garnered more recognition and praise, winning the Dora Mavor Moore award in 1982 for his play, *Theatre of the Film Noir*.

"By the end of the play, *Beyond Mozambique* turns into an assault on the audience. It raises a number of interesting questions, forces you to think," comments Devine, who is most intrigued by the character Rocco. A former Nazi doctor, Rocco call himself "the absence of God". At one point, the air filled with the

wail of babies and the sound of war drums. Rocco states, "There's something about committing crimes against humanity that puts you in touch with the purpose of the universe."

Other characters include Olga, who believes she is a character in Chekhov's *Three Sisters*; Tomas, Rocco's assistant, whose head is constantly dripping with blood; and Rita, a sleazy would-be actress who wants to make a movie about a sleazy would-be actress.

In *Beyond Mozambique*, what is black and horrible is, at the same time, funny. The play is a macabre comedy, the product of Walker's dark, disturbing vision. "It's a bloody world," says Walker. "Comedy is one way of dealing with that."

Time: 8:30 p.m.
Admission Price: \$3.00

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Genie Award Nominations

MARSHALL GOLDEN

The following is a partial list of nominees for the 1983 Genie Awards. These awards, presented by the Academy of Canadian Cinema, annually honour achievers in the Canadian film industry. The awards will be presented by David Thomas March 23, 1983 at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

Best Motion Picture

The Grey Fox - Peter O'Brian
Harry Tracy - p. Ronald I. Cohen
Une Journee en Taxi - p. Robert Menard

Quest For Fire - p. John Kemeny, Denis Heroux
Threshold - p. Jon Slan, Michael Burns

Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role
Gilles Renaud - Une journee en taxi
Saul Rubinek - By Design

Marcel Sabourin - Doux aveux
August Schellenberg - Latitude 55
Donald Sutherland - Threshold

Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role
Sara Botsford - By Design
Rae Dawn Chong - Quest For Fire

Helene Loiselle - Doux aveux
Monique Mercure - La Quarantaine
Andree Pelletier - Latitude 55

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role
Nicholas Campbell - The Man in 5A
Doug McGrath - Porky's

Gary Reineke - The Grey Fox
Wayne Robson - The Grey Fox
R.H. Thomson - If You Could See What I Hear

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role
Genevieve Brassard - Doux aveux
Jackie Burroughs - The Grey Fox

Clare Coulter - By Design
Patricia Nolin - La Quarantaine
Trudy Young - Melanie

Best Achievement in Cinematography
Une Journee en taxi - Pierre Mignot
Threshold - Michel Brault

Best Achievement in Direction
Les Fleurs Sauvages - Jean-Pierre Lefebvre
The Grey Fox - Phillip Borsos

If You Could See What I Hear - Eric Till
Une Journee en taxi - Robert Menard
Melanie - Rex Bromfield

Japanese Student Scholarships

Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. (Canada) announces a scholarship program to enhance opportunities for Japanese students to study in Canada.

The scholarships are open to any Japanese citizen who is admitted to a course of full time study in Business or Economics at a Canadian university, at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

Scholarship Provisions

Cash amounts may be awarded annually to an individual or individuals, to an aggregate total of \$2,500.

The scholarships are tenable for one full academic year.

Individuals may re-apply in subsequent years, whether or not they have previously been awarded a scholarship.

Selection

A selection committee to be named by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. (Canada) will review applications and decide the number of scholarships to be awarded in any year and their amount.

The Consul General of Japan, in Toronto, will act as advisor to the committee.

Applications

Requests for application forms should be addressed to:

Mr. R. Michael Howard, B.A., C.A.
Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.
P.O. Box 31
Commerce Court Postal Station
Toronto, Ontario M5L 1B2

Completed applications will be received until April 15 of each year, applicable to the subsequent academic year at the Canadian university which the applicant will attend.



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