

The PackRat Players: "A Light Look At Sex"

When I was sent an invitation to "Aids Comedy Night" I was rather perplexed by the title. Luckily, I was aware of the efforts of Grace Getty and the nurses of UNB in promoting AIDS awareness on campus and I knew of her involvement in this project. St. Thomas' performance of "It's Your Life... A Light Look At Safe Sex" was an informative and fun evening.

The play consisted of several skits aimed at entertaining its audience in a light yet informative method of discussing sexual habits. The atmosphere that night was never bogged down by the heavy medical facts that are mechanically fed to us by various pamphlets and the like. The level of expression was factually correct without being boring or disgusting. With the presence of a certain pamphlet this year, the players took caution to discuss those areas which we are faced with (such as rather bizarre sex habits) that we would sometimes rather not talk about. They managed to get their point across without being to vulgar.

Actors included Nancy Hanlon who played a wife of three years on a twisted game show on the knowledge of the contestants about their spouses among other roles, Andrea Pugh who in many of the skits was portrayed as the much more "free spirits" (shall we say) sexually, Karen Beck acted as the stage manager and "word of the sponsor" in the game show as well as a concerned young woman in a less humorous, more down to earth skit about AIDS and her partner. Tom Marshall played

the partner of Karen's as well as a very funny depiction of the cherub of "reckless sex". Peter Smith was the excitable host of that unforgettable game show as well as the hesitating virgin in a skit about the use of a condom and Marcel St. Pierre (budding stand up comic) enlightened us with his humorous portrayal of the cherub of safe sex who, even as a good cherub, has to get his share of practical jokes. The cherub sketch was definitely my favorite and St. Pierre's comic presence on stage was excellent. What really took the show, though, was the use of funny one liners at the most unexpected of moments. "...pulled out the old love lumber.", and "Ramses was an Egyptian king so wear a condom on your thing." just to name a few.

Author and director, David Petersen, says that soon the performance will be open to both campuses and, with a few modifications, he wishes to do a high school circuit. On the whole, the play was able to reach the boundaries of depicting humor with such a subject without going overboard and proved to be very informative and interesting without making the audience too uncomfortable. The strength of the final scene showed the seriousness of the subject as well as explaining to us that it is a problem that we must face.

An excellent example volunteer time put to good (and fun) use. Bravo to the players and good luck. An remember, if you ever see a short fellow in a white shirt throwing condoms around, listen to him, he's a cherub on your side.

miroslav wiesner

Da Vinci at Beaverbrook Art Gallery!!

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was a dominant figure in the art of the Italian Renaissance at the end of the 15th century. Best known for his painting (such as the Mona Lisa) and murals (The Las Supper), Leonardo's agile mind and rare abilities enabled him to master many fields of knowledge beyond the realm of art. He was an inventor with an imagination to conceive of the airplane, helicopter, parachute, submarine and bicycle, five hundred years ago.

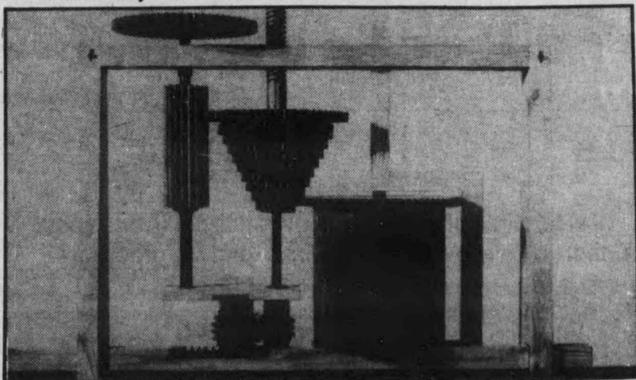
At the Beaverbrook Art Gallery from February 23 April 9, 1990 the exhibition, Leonardo do Vinci: Engineer and Architect will examine Leonardo's genius in the fields of engineering and architecture. This extraordinary exhibition is proudly sponsored by Neill and Gunter Limited who are celebrating 25 years of engineering excellence. The exhibition has been organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal. The Beaverbrook Art Gallery is the only Maritime stop for this NOT-TO-BE missed exhibition.

Rather than attempt to treat Leonardo's entire intellectual output, the exhibition examines two aspects of Leonardo's work that are often overlooked: his contributions both to the science of engineering - extending from his studies of geometry, mathematics, mechanics, human anatomy - and to the field of architecture.

Eighteen large models of machines specifically constructed for this exhibition from designs found in Leonardo's manuscripts will be on view in the three main galleries. Twentieth century technology will be required to install the models. A fork-lift for example, will be required to transport and site them in the galleries. These models are intended to demonstrate the innovative qualities inherent in engineers and architects of his day. A large model of a central play church, built to scale according to a drawing by the artist, illustrates his principal architectural theories. Some of the models are operable, such as the water pump.

Leonardo da Vinci: Engineer and Architect is a delight to eye and mind, and will appeal to all ages. It was recently seen in Toronto at the Ontario Science Centre and will soon travel to France and Australia.

A number of special programmes for children and families are planned during the six weeks in which the exhibition will be at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery.



~~Vid Flicks~~

eric hill

So you say, "Eric, that's all great and everything, but what about Canadian entertainment?" Since I'm one never to ignore fine homegrown talent, here are two Canadian films of suspense and horror that you may have overlooked in your perusal of the genre.

If your taste in the thrillers was closer to the Hitchcockian end of the Spectrum you might consider *The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane*. This film, starring Jodie Foster and Martin Sheen, is about a young girl who lives outside town with her writer father. The thing is - her father never seems to be around when anyone visits, and the little girl objects strongly to anyone going into the house's cellar. It sounds simple and straightforward but really isn't. Sheen is appropriately slimy as the town pervert who is the son of one of the community's matriarchs. Foster, a usual, puts in a great performance.

For the connoisseur of the kinky gross-out a fine choice might be the early David Cronenberg film - *Rabid*. The story concerns a girl who is badly hurt and burned in a motorcycle crash and is saved by a new process of skin grafting in an experimental plastic surgeon clinic which was (coincidentally!) near the accident scene. Complications arise after she wakes out of her coma after the surgery and they become very bizarre complications!! She develops a

kind of phallic syringe hidden in a vaguely vaginal orifice in her armpit. She uses the syringe to drain unwitting victims of a small amount of blood, which is the only nourishment which she can now assimilate. Her victims afterward, develop a rabies-like ailment, causing them to bite other people, infecting them in turn (and they bite two friends and so on and so on). The film, starring porn queen Marilyn Chambers, is an interesting look at Cronenberg's early (and much less sophisticated) and original vision which becomes more refined in later films such as *The Fly* and *Dead Ringers*.

Stephen Scott at Gallery 78

Fredericton artist Stephen Scott will show his most recent paintings in an exhibition at Gallery 78 from Friday, February 2 to 17, 1990. This special exhibition consists of mostly still life paintings, and represents Scott's work of the last two years. The artist will be at the gallery to meet the public on Friday, February 2 from 7-9 pm.

Stephen Scott was born in Saint John, grew up and attended school in Fredericton. Art studies began at the Ontario College of Art in 1973, after a year of travel throughout Europe in 1972, and continued at Mount Allison University, where his teachers were, among others, Ted Pulford, Harold Feist, Tom Henderson and David Silverberg. During his University years he worked as arts and crafts coordinator at Dorchester Pen-itiary. He graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and received an Elisabeth Greenshiels Fellowship, which enabled him to continue his art studies in Antwerp, Belgium, and study the paintings in many of Europe's art galleries. Upon returning to Canada in 1980 he accepted a position as art teacher in School district 21, and began his successful career as a visual artist. Since 1975 his work has been exhibited in many solo and group shows, including juried and invitational exhibitions at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the Owens Art Gallery in Sackville, the Art Centre at UNB and the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. In 1987 he was commissioned by the Department of National Defense, Armor School, to execute a painting celebrating the history of the Armor Regiment.

In addition to his activities as a visual artist he has been drawing instructor at the New Brunswick Craft School since 1984, a position he still holds. Stephen Scott's work is part of many public, corporate and private collections throughout Canada, the United States and Europe, among them in New Brunswick the Owens Art Gallery, the Provincial Art Bank, University of New Brunswick, the Banks of Montreal and Nova Scotia. His large oil painting "Still Life with Fish Table" represents New Brunswick in a new building of the Northern Telecom collection. The public is invited to view this special exhibition from Tuesday until Saturday, 10--5.



This timeless request is not the sole preserve of children promising a peaceful bedtime in return for a fairy tale or family narrative. The weaving of voice and gesture to bring experiences and characters to life appeals to everyone, regardless of age, century, or place.

StoryFest, an award-winning storytelling extravaganza in Fredericton from Feb. 12 to 19, captures the magic of storytelling as family and community entertainment. "The week-long event will sweep communities province-wide," said Sally McAllister, coordinator of the event, which is organized by the department of extension and summer session at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

While inquiries about StoryFest have come from as far away as Saskatoon and St. John's, communities within the province have shown the most interest by far, Ms McAllister related. "For New Brunswickers, StoryFest embodies the need for a distinctive New Brunswick identity. It helps improve not only communication skills in the young and non-too-young, but also the quality of family and community life."

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