

Anton Chekhov's THE BEAR

The Power and the Passion

The play to see this weekend is the Bald Ego Production of Anton Chekhov's *The Bear* together with *The Serf's Dumb Show*. From the first appearance of the first actor on stage it is obvious that this will be a tightly constructed and well-managed play. Every muscle movement counts and contributes to the action from slow-motion movements of eyebrows or the purposeful crooked fingers of the desperate serf's need for more vodka, to the almost ballet-like fast-action movement around the room and up and down stairs. The director Adam Nashman has had valuable experience in producing interactive plays in the medieval tradition, and he utilizes that tradition in this experimental stage production of *The Bear*. His skillful use of the mature experience of the three principle actors (Kathleen Sherf (Popova) - melodrama combined with an iron will to weep, Barrie Davies (Looka) - a manservant that any Gestapo member would have been proud of, and Reavley Gair as the most delightful and entertaining of Bears, willing to fall on his knees and become positively "soppy" with love,) elucidates the personalities of both actors and their roles.

His admirable supporting cast of Genevieve Bosse, Paula Dawson, Frank Findlay, and Roger Wilkie create an impression of earthy solidarity that Chekov would surely approve of since he was born the grandson of a serf.

Both plays operate as a unit which elucidates and comments on itself such that one leaves Memorial Hall having participated in a profound philosophical experience. Although I was thoroughly entertained, I was also startled into the awareness that the type of serfdom and mindlessness occurs in Canada too. Subtle textual changes add richness and variety to an already challenging play which is now over 100 years old, enabling it to jolt our consciousness today.

Every member of the cast contributed to the excellence of the production, and since I attended the dress rehearsal, surely things can only get better. Oh, the Troubador? Ed Kavanagh, let's not forget him, with his gentle relaxed manner he is the beginning, the middle, and the end of this production. Listen carefully to the words of his songs.

A criticism? Perhaps Looka could direct his prayers towards better strawberry-picking weather outside of Memorial Hall for the rest of this week?

Ann Passmore



The Bear has one more performance tonight at 8pm in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$4 adult and \$2 student. Go and see it.

HAPPENINGS

Don't forget! February 28 is the deadline for **New Talent '92** entry forms. Presentation of awards will take place March 13. This is sponsored by the **UNB/STU Creative Arts Committee**. Also don't forget to see the current exhibition at the Art Centre featuring the engravings of 29 Canadian artists including local artists Michiel Oudemans and Bruno Bobak entitled *The White Line*. The exhibition continues through March 12.

"Yo! It's a Classic..."

-Nick, Editor of Soundcheck Magazine

Alfred Hitchcock's:

NORTH BY NORTHWEST

Friday, February 28th at MacLaggen Auditorium

8:00 PM

Admission \$3

Presented by **CHSR FM**

Book City bookstores and **Books in Canada** magazine present the **1992 Student Writing Awards for Poetry and Short Fiction**. First Prize \$1000, Second Prize \$500, Third Prize \$250. There will be three prize winners in each of two categories: short fiction and poetry. Rules are as follows:

1. The entrant must a full time undergraduate student at a Canadian University or Community College.
2. Entry must be labelled with name, home address and phone number, university or college address and phone number, and student ID number. No entries will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.
3. Each student may submit one entry per category. Short fiction should not exceed 2500 words; a poetry entry may contain up to two poems with a maximum of 2500 words in total.
4. Entrants agree to permit one-time publication in **Books in Canada Magazine**.
5. The decision of the judges is final. Winners will be announced in the October 1992 **Books in Canada**.
6. Entries must be postmarked no later than July 15, 1992 and should be addressed to:

Student Writing Awards
Books in Canada
33 Draper Street, Second Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2M3

ENTERTAINMENT

Apply by March 13th!

see shows for free! Huge sums of bribe money!
graphic freedom! Editorial mayhem! Totalitarian Control!
Apply for the entertainment Editorial position and
Be All You Can Be!



SHELDON SHEEP SAYS:

"Don't forget to write in 'Sheldon Sheep' on your Student Union Election Ballot!"