

the ARTS

Bim and Sweetcrab

Bim and Sweetcrab will be playing at Garneau Church Hall (112 Street, 84th Avenue) this Saturday and Sunday night beginning around 8:00 p.m.

Bim specializes in blues, country and western, plus his own tremendous songs. He hails from Dawson Creek, but has become an important part of the Vancouver music scene; he has been used as a backup act for such performers as John Hartford and Rita Coolidge.

This weekend he will do at least one set with Edmonton's own *Sweetcrab* (Betty Chaba and Gary Koliger). It will feature skillful interweaving of guitar styles (including some bottleneck) plus the finest blending of 3 part harmonies you're ever heard.

Admission is \$1.25. 50 cents for Edmonton Folk Club members. This Friday and Saturday night at Garneau Church Hall.

Sganarelle

A rare privilege awaits Edmonton's musical audience as the U of A's Department of Music prepares its production of the world premiere of Violet Archer's opera *Sganarelle*, next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Although she has written numerous works for voice as well as for chamber and orchestral combinations, this is the first work for the operatic form that Ms. Archer has composed and the results that she has achieved with this effort are most exciting.

Sganarelle is a farcical, one-act drama based on a play of the same name written by Moliere. It is a story about a young girl, Celie, who is very much in love with a young man, Lelie. The romance is very much in full swing until Celie's father decides that she must marry the son of a very wealthy merchant in order that her future (more important, his own) will be secure. Celie very reluctantly agrees with her father and the plans are set in motion. Lelie, her lover, notices the reduction in her affections for him and circumstances lead him to suspect that she has fallen in love with Sganarelle, a neighbouring gentleman. Madame Sganarelle also begins to suspect that there is a liaison between her husband and Celie. Simultaneously, Celie and Sganarelle begin to think that Lelie and Madame Sganarelle are having an affair. Of course the situation becomes confused as each of the intrigues become more complex and more ridiculous. The story climaxes with an immense quarrel which only the maid, who has watched on amusedly throughout the

proceedings, is able to sort out. News then arrives that the man who Celie was supposed to have married is already betrothed to another, more wealthy, young girl. Since the eternal quadrangle has been straightened out, Celie restores her affections on Lelie and everyone lives happily ever after.

The idea for the opera first came to Ms. Archer when she was teaching at the University of Oklahoma several years ago. She was unable to do any work on it until last year while she was on sabbatical, and it took six months of painstaking labour to complete. The challenge which she found in composing the opera were first in coming to terms with characters in the farce so that she could musically portray their personalities and secondly in imagining the opera as a whole, the movements on stage, so that her music could provide the necessary dramatic momentum to the opera.

In her reading of Moliere's play, from which she compiled the libretto, she found that the action moved very quickly and so this ruled out the possibility of her using the standard operatic forms of aria-recitative which would interrupt that flow. Her opera is, therefore, "through composed" in that there are no arias, only short solo passages which add impulse to the drama.

Anyone who approaches with trepidation the new works of modern composers for fear that they contain too many unintelligible, dissonant passages may relax since Ms. Archer's intention was to musically portray the farcical nature of Moliere's play. Hence the music,

At Theatre 3

Rehearsals begin today for THEATRE 3's next production, a matched pair of Canadian one-acts. The plays, both considering the theme of emotional tyranny, are *SYLVIA* by James Osborne and *DISMISSAL LEADING TO LUSTFULNESS* by Tom Whyte. They will open at the Centennial Library Theatre February 20th and run until March 3rd.

The plays are complementary in their examination of strong women and weak men, but they contrast in their settings. *SYLVIA* is a harsh reflection of the 20th Century, while *DISMISSAL LEADING TO LUSTFULNESS* is an elaborate Victorian serio-comedy.

SYLVIA will be directed by

Mark Schoenberg, and will feature Hutchison Shandro and Judith Mabey as John and Diane. *DISMISSAL* is being guest directed by Kenneth Agrell-Smith, and the cast includes Jennifer Webber, Jean MacIntyre, Conrad Boyce and Jonathan Harrison.

James Osborne will be familiar to THEATRE 3 audiences as the adaptor of last season's phenomenally successful *INVITATION TO A BEHEADING*. This will be the world premiere for *SYLVIA*, a play which has already won several awards. *DISMISSAL LEADING TO LUSTFULNESS* has previously been produced at the Little Theatre Club, London England, and for BBC television.

New theatre opening

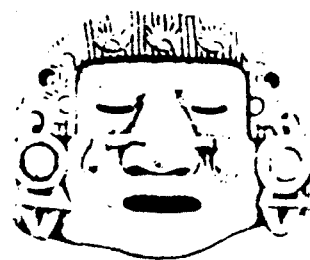
Studio Theatre's *Stage 74* production opens Wednesday, February 6th, in the thrust theatre of the new Fine Arts Centre, and coincides with the official opening of the new building on February 8th. The three departments, of Drama, Music, and Art & Design, are presenting a number of special events to mark the occasion. Tickets for *The Country Wife* will go on sale Wednesday, January 30th, in Room 3-146 of the Fine Arts Centre. Admission is \$2.50 and University students are admitted free. Phone 432-1495 (24-hour phone line). *The Country Wife* will run until Saturday, February 16th, with performances each night except Sunday, commencing at 8:30. Saturday matinees commence at 2:30. Please note that the performance on Friday, February 8th, will start one half

hour later, at 9:00 p.m.

The Country Wife was the most popular of Wycherley's plays in his own day and is the one most frequently revived in the present century. There are three distinct but closely related plots: the first, to which the title refers, concerning the man who, for safety, marries an ignorant wife and is outwitted by her; the second, concerning the rivalry of a fop and a sensible man for the hand of the same woman; and the third, depicting the comic antics of a character named Horner, who pursues ladies who run very slowly. Wycherley portrays the mores and moral attitudes of a particular section of the London society of 1673, and the passage of 300 years has not blunted, to any appreciable

extent, the barbs and arrows of his frequently outrageous satire.

The comedy has received a number of highly successful interpretations in recent years: the Stratford Festival production in 1964, directed by Michael Langham, featured John Colicos, William Hutt, and Helen Burns; George Devine's 1956 production for the English Stage Company included Alan Bates as Harcourt and John Plowright in the title role, and the same director took the play to New York in 1958 with a cast that included Julie Harris and Laurence Harvey. One of the most definitive versions of modern times was the 1937 Broadway production, with Ruth Gordon as the Country Wife.



ORACLES

theatre lives

Child's Play by Robert Marasco and directed by Richard Ouzounian. Opens at the Citadel January 5 and runs to February 2, 1974. This production stars John Neville and Vernon Chapman.

Have You Any Dirty Washing Mother Dear? written by Clive Exton and directed by Warren Graves. Next at Walterdale Playhouse, nightly at 8:30, January 15 thru 26 inclusive. Tickets at the Bay Box Office or phone 424-0121 for reservations. Do it now or you'll be out of luck.

L'Effet des Rayons Gamma sur les Vieux-Garçons by Paul Zindel, translated and adapted by Michel Trambly. Directed by Jean-Marcel Duciaume at Theatre Francais d'Edmonton, 8406-91 rue. Feb. 1, 2, 3, and 8, 9, 10th. Students \$1.25. Tickets at the door or phone the box office at 467-3626. En francais.

dance

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company will be at the Jubilee January 31, February 1 and 2 with their production of the NUTCRACKER. Student prices are in the \$3.00-\$5.50 range. A classic more talked about than performed. This is your chance to get caught up and find out what all the talk is about.

easy on the ears

Sweetcrab and *Bim*. Garneau Church Hall, 112 Street and 84 Avenue. Saturday, Sunday February 2 and 3, starting at 8:00 p.m. \$1.25 or fifty cents for Edmonton Folk Club members.

Local singer-songwriters workshop at Garneau Church Hall, Tuesday, February 5 at 8:00 p.m. Featured will be Paul Hann, Robert Peterson, Richard White, Bev Ross and (probably) John Antle. Herbal teas will be sold. There will be no admission charge although donations would be appreciated.

jazz cocktail

Bobby Hutcherson will be appearing with his quartet Sunday, February 3 at the SUB Theatre. Kirk Lightsey on piano; Henry Franklin on bass; Larry Hancock on drums. Tickets: \$2.50 for Edmonton Jazz Society members of \$3.50 for non-members. 8:00 pm.

poetry reading

Friday, February 8. Gail Fox will be reading from her works at the Edmonton Public Library.

Edmonton Film Society presents the classic western comedy "Destry Rides Again" starring Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart. 8 p.m. on Feb. 4 in Tory Lecture Theatre. Season ticket to the comedy series is now \$3 for students. Also on the program: a thrilling chapter from the 1934 serial, "Vanishing Sadow".

Abstract paintings by ten "new" Canadian artists, five from the East, five from the West. Although each finds personal solutions, they are unified by a common fascination with colour and surface. The artists are David Bolduc, K.M. Graham, Paul Hutner, Daniel Solomon, of Toronto; Milly Ristvedt of Shanty Bay, Ontario; D.T. Chester of Regina; Robert Christie of Saskatoon; Harold Fiest of Calgary; and Anne Clarke-Darrah and Graham Peacock of Edmonton. At the Edmonton Art Gallery.

Et du Fils

ET DU FILS

Ovila Legare and Jacques Godin star in this 1971 Canadian film (Eastman color) directed by Raymond Garceau and presented by Toutimage.

Old Francois Godefroy is the proprietor of a family estate on the il-aux-Grues which he operates in the traditional method. His son Gaston, married to Jarka, a young Czech immigrant, is manipulated by a local businessman who wants to turn the manor into a hotel for tourists and hunters with the help of American financiers. Francois prefers to burn the manor rather than permit it to be degraded by the plans of Gaston and the businessman. Jarka, torn between love for her husband and affection for her father-in-law decides to leave. The film was shot on location at the il-aux-Grues in winter.

Toutimage is a local film club which presents French and Canadian films on a monthly basis at College Saint-Jean, 8406-91 Street. Some of the films presented to date have been: *Tiens-toi bien apres les oreilles a papa*, *L'Attentat*, and *Enquete sur un citoyen au-dessus de tout soupcon*. Films to come are *La mort d'un bucheron* and *Viva la Muerte* among others. Admission is \$1.50 or .50 for members for this film to be presented the 3, 4, and 5 February at 7:45 in the auditorium of College Saint-Jean.