

The Alternative to Argyle...

Reggae Reggae Fun Fun Fun!!!! Wednesday Night is Reggae Night at Occasions 2099B Gottingen

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students
(NO COVER)
A Place for all.
Seeing is Believing!
Take a Chance!
Party at Occasions
2099B Gottingen Street
(Lower Level)
492-3455
4:00 pm - 1:00 am



(for Members and Guests - Memberships Available)

GRADUATION PORTRAITS

Sitting Fee: for five poses - \$12.50

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First Baptist Church Halifax

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November 17th - 10:30 a.m. - Pentecost 26

Sermon: *Laws of the Heart* - Rev. Adele Crowell

Music: Willan, Faure

November 24th - 10:30 a.m. - Reign of Christ Sunday

Sermon: *Christ - The Alpha and Omega* - Rev. John E. Boyd

Music: Poston, Ledger

Adult Bible Class; Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Free Student Luncheon Every Sunday After Service

Ministers: Rev. John E. Boyd, Rev. Adele Crowell

Director of Music: David MacDonald

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ARTS

Dresser is a humanizing play

BY JULIE LUOMA

Behind every good actor is a good dresser. The costume makes the character in theatre. And in Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser*, the person in charge of costumes is crucial to the actor's performance

THEATRE
Neptune Theatre
directed by Linda Moore

Amid the sound of air raid sirens, a British touring company is fighting for survival during World War Two.

"Those who wish to live," the audience, stay home for the most part, and the country's best actors are doubling as soldiers.

When senility and fatigue strike the reigning star of the company, the dresser struggles to rejuvenate Sir, the lead actor. Norman mothers Sir, cleaning his clothes and making him tea. He chastises him and makes fun of his irresponsible behaviour, but he also soothes Sir when he breaks down and cries.

Norman uses more underhanded tactics to motivate Sir to go on with the planned performance of *King Lear*. He tells Sir the house is full when there are only three people in line for tickets. And he takes

poetic licence to praise the old man's acting, bolstering Sir's sense of self-worth.

Then comes the dresser's task of going over Sir's lines with him, getting his make up done and getting him on his feet and onto the stage.

Norman's work would go unseen if it weren't for the behind the scenes setting of the play. Pat Flood's set design puts us in Sir's dressing room, where a dark portrait of King Lear is an ironic reminder of the play-within-a-play, and of the innate schizophrenia in acting.

The Lear metaphor fleshes out Sir's character as a stately, arrogant, single-minded man whose field of vision is surprisingly small. He's ignorant of the importance of Norman's fool-like servitude. And Sir is blind to Norman's love and devotion, as Lear was to his daughter, Cordelia. Despite the abuse Norman suffers because of Sir's ambition, his compassion stirs our sympathy for Sir.

The King and his fool are codependent in *Lear*. In turn, Norman always refers to Sir as "we", and the two would be lost without each other. Indeed, Norman is more essential to Sir than his partner, Her Ladyship.

Linda Moore's direction, the script and the strong acting carefully break down the many cliches and self-indulgences *The Dresser* sets up about thespians, to humanize them.

Robin Marshall's portrayal of Norman brings out the character's many dimensions. He is funny and fiery, intuitive and insistent, fragile and effeminate, petty and pathetic, humble and durable.

Roland Hewgill balances the might and fragility of both Sir and Lear.

Donna Carroll White plays Her Ladyship, a cold woman whose own career is frustrated by a relationship with a single-minded man. White is at her best alone with Sir, portraying the subtle tensions and bitterness of a trapped lover.

Rita Howell is the efficient stage manager, Madge. Norman's intuition tells him there's more to Madge than she shows, and he doesn't like her meddling in his business with Sir.

Heather Nurnberg as Irene, plays a woman whose youth and slight figure give men an excuse not to take her seriously. Irene herself doesn't know how to bet what she wants. But Nurnberg, a Dal grad, shows us Irene's self-effacing determination.

But Norman, not the actors, is the most interesting and entertaining of the characters. As the "littlest" player, his sorrows and needs are the largest. His disease is hopefulness, he says, and the theatre is the only place he doesn't feel lonely. Norman's emotional investment in the theatre forces him to put up with Sir's abuse. And his thankless role of the fool is rewarded in the curtain call, when he enters as a star equal to Sir.

Hi Ho! The ARTS SUPPLEMENT

DEADLINE is November 22, so keep those cards and letters (and stories, and pictures, and things) coming! Pad your portfolio par print purveyance! Big blank white spaces are begging for your byline. Please write in or we'll have to reprint a bunch of sad old stories we wrote in high school! Pour on the juice, gang: remember your deadline!

DALHOUSIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

SHARI BOYLE



NOVEMBER

4 - 10



PAUL VILLENEUVE



SHARI BOYLE - CROSS COUNTRY

This past weekend at the C.I.A.U. Cross Country Championships in Victoria, B.C. first year Dal student Shari Boyle had to fight off the flu but managed to surge ahead towards the latter part of the race to finish a strong 12th, earning **2nd Team All-Canadian Honours**. Congratulations Shari!

PAUL VILLENEUVE - VOLLEYBALL

Third year setter and captain of the Dal Men's Volleyball Team, Paul Villeneuve led his team to 2 straight victories over the University of Moncton Blue Angels. Paul was selected as "Player of the Game" for both matches combining for a total of 4 kills, 8 stuff blocks and 3 service aces.

FOLLOW THE TIGERS!