

raw look at life of sex and drugs

by Anna Spalvieri

York student director Rhea Akler hopes to bring a message across about the subject matter of Tom Walmsley's play. This particular production of *The Jones Boy* will be the first performed in Toronto in 12 years.

It is "primitive, raw, and instinctual," focusing on internal and external conflicts; each of the five characters must come to terms with their dark sides. The world of heroin and prostitution are external; the characters' survival in this type of environment is what matters. In the afterward of the play, Walmsley wrote, "*The Jones Boy* is not about heroin. It's about people living under the most extreme conditions one could live under in North American society... Under these conditions, the terms life, death and violence have real significance."

The title is explained by a character named Fat Kenny. Fat Kenny is a pusher who explains that when a drug addict is off drugs and needs more, "Jones comes knocking on your bones."

Akler believes that as an artist, her role is not only to entertain, but to teach, otherwise the play can be hollow. The message she is trying to convey is simple. As the audience, we must be aware of our surroundings and understand those who live in an environment "with limited resources, (and) limited hopes and dreams." She warns that as an audience member, you can truly hate the characters until you begin to understand them and realize that they are people you see everyday but are too afraid or too busy to approach.

As young people, Akler says, we must be aware of what is happening around us. We cannot afford to remain passive but should initiate a response to the external world. Although we may not be able to change the problems of society, "we can change ourselves." That is the first step.

Akler points out the play is written to describe the emotions of a



Student director Rhea Akler.

person on a heroin trip or participating in sex. The play begins slow and calm, until finally it reaches a climax.

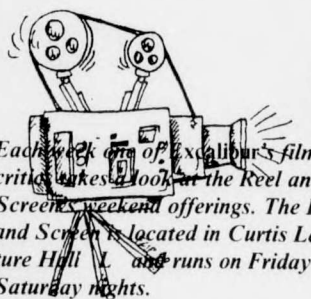
The play deals with alienation. Each character is "alienated from society; they're alienated from themselves; they're alienated from the entire system," says Akler.

When you walk into the theatre, you will notice there are no chairs. Akler wishes to experiment; the audience is to stand through the duration of the performance in order to become involved. The

audience will feel claustrophobic, and will be given no indication of what will happen next. They will witness the violent, angry and joyful emotions the characters feel. The lighting illuminates the faces of the characters' and their presence is strongly felt.

The Jones Boy is running from November 28 to December 1, at 8 p.m. in Samuel Beckett Theatre located in the basement of Stong College. The cost is \$3 per ticket. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes.

Jason Schwartz



Each week one of Excalibur's film critics takes a look at the Reel and Screen weekend offerings. The Reel and Screen is located in Curtis Lecture Hall and runs on Friday and Saturday nights.

by Shawna Kaufman

There are certain movies that can be watched in fast-forward without missing anything at all. *Her Alibi* and *My Stepmother is an Alien* are two who, although their subject matter is quite different, create an equal level of boredom.

In *Her Alibi*, supermodel Paulina Porzokova is the centre of attention. The best thing that can be said about her presence in the movie is that she is photogenic. So much for climbing the ladder of success from modelling to acting. Her co-star is Tom Selleck who is bland as usual. The narration for the film is provided by Selleck who carries it through with only the slightest

bit of humour. His character is supposed to be intriguing because he pursues a writing career. Selleck is pathetically boring instead of intriguing.

The movie moves slowly, and struggles to hold the interest of the audience by focusing on Porzokova's sexuality. Director Bruce Beresford's most effective element in this movie was casting Selleck as a klutz and Porzokova as a foreigner without much dialogue.

My Stepmother is an Alien features another beautiful woman who has difficulty with acting. Kim Basinger remains coherent in this movie, however, she gives an awkward and embarrassing portrayal of a seductress. Dan Akroyd as her co-star is annoying and it

is apparent he is uncomfortable in his role. Perhaps the biggest waste of humour is Jon Lovitz, who has an irrelevant supporting role. His effort to be funny is not difficult to notice. His incessant pursuit of women in the movie is reminiscent of his *Saturday Night Live* pathological liar character, Tommy Flenagan.

The movie has a bubblegum quality about it. Director Richard Benjamin includes special effects so tacky you think you are watching a B movie.

These comedies are supposed to make you laugh, which they do; you laugh at them instead of with them. They are being shown back to back at the Reel and Screen November 24 and 25.

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