

Alden Nowlan:

Functionally illiterate?

By PAM SAUNDERS
 Conversazione, readings by Alden Nowlan, will be presented at the Art Centre, Memorial Hall, Wednesday, May 16, at 10:30 a.m. Traditionally, Conversazione is held the day before Encaenia, featuring a writer or poet. The choice of Nowlan is particularly suitable for this occasion, as he is the university's Writer-in-Residence. Although the content of the programme is decided by the writer, it is expected that Nowlan will recite some of the works of Bliss Carmen in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Carmen's death.

Nowlan was born near Windsor, Nova Scotia in 1933. After leaving school in about the fifth grade, he worked at various odd jobs before arriving in Hartland, N.B., to work on the local newspaper. He later became a reporter and night news editor of the Saint John

Telegraph-Herald. During his years as a reporter, Nowlan wrote poetry and had several books published, with encouragement from Fred Cogswell. He was able to devote full time to his art on becoming UNB's Writer-in-Residence in 1968.

Nowlan was awarded the Governor-General's Award for poetry in 1967, for Bread, Wine and Salt. A more recent collection, Smoked Glass (1977) won the Canadian Authors Association Prize. He joined with artist Tom Forrestal to produce Shaped by This Land published by Brunswick Press in 1974. Double Exposure, another collection of poems was published in 1978. Nowlan has also written works of fiction and plays familiar to Fredericton audiences (Frankenstein; the Man Who Became God; The Dollar and The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca.)

Nowlan has continued to write newspaper columns and to freelance for magazines.

Critics comment on the humour and simplicity of his poetry. Geri Fox remarks of Smoked Glass: "These poems are unique, even refreshing, in their stylistic simplicity. They possess a certain empathic quality, which arouses in the reader feelings of amusement, loneliness and grief -- often with the turn of a page. Frequently, Nowlan's response to the situations in which he finds himself and others is characterized by a subtle irony, which produces some surprising results. More often than not, he shows himself to be an outrageously funny poet."

While Nowlan has stated that "I'm the only professional writer who would be classified as functionally illiterate by Statistics Canada," his work proves otherwise.



Photo by Kay

Richler's "Duddy" becomes a musical

STRATFORD, Ontario, April 20, 1979 ... The Stratford Festival will present a new musical version of Mordecai Richler's best-selling novel and highly successful film, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, in 1980. Artistic Director Robin Phillips announced today.

The musical -- to be titled *Duddy* -- will be produced by the Stratford Festival in collaboration with Montreal impresario Samuel Gesser, who plans to tour the production at the close of the Stratford season.

Duddy will be financed in part by a grant from Imperial Oil Limited.

The book will be written by Mr. Richler, one of Canada's foremost authors, known for such other major novels as *St. Urbain's Horsemen* and *Cocksure* and for his short stories, essays and such screenplays as *Fun With Dick and*

Jane starring Jane Fonda and George Segal, *Life At The Top* and the film version of *Duddy Kravitz*, starring Richard Dreyfuss. His screenplay for *Duddy Kravitz* was nominated for an Oscar in 1975 and voted Best Comedy Screenplay by the Writers' Guild of America the same year. The film also took Hollywood's Golden Globe Award that year and was voted a special honour as Film Of The Year at the Canadian Film Awards presentation.

Composer Galt McDermot has begun work on music for *Duddy*. The Hamilton-born composer is perhaps best known for *Hair* which was performed around the world for several years after its premiere in New York in 1967 and which has since been made into an enormously successful film. He also composed music for the musical adaptation of *The Two*

Gentlemen of Verona, which brought him a Tony Award as Best Composer for the Broadway production of that show. Mr. McDermot and Mr. Richler are working together on the show's lyrics.

Ted Kotcheff, whose career as director-producer has taken him

from Toronto to England and, more recently, back to Canada and to Hollywood, has expressed an interest in directing the musical. Mr. Kotcheff directed the film version of *Duddy Kravitz* which was a Canadian co-production shot in Montreal.

His films also include *Fun With*

Dick and Jane, Life At The Top and, more recently, *Somebody Killing The Great Chefs of E...* Impresario Gesser has produced both the Stratford Festival recent Tours, in 1975 and and has presented musicals other shows in theatres Canada.

Arts Corner

Four exhibits are featured at the Art Centre until May 18: Themes of Molly Lamb Bobak; Ceramic Sculptures by Tom Smith; Inuit Prints and Fibre Stitchery by Jennifer Turner.

Molly Lamb Bobak's work has been seen in several shows and exhibitions in Fredericton, but this is the first time that it has appeared in a major exhibition in the Art Centre. A wide sampling of Bobak's work is shown, ranging from 1959 to 1977. Many of the scenes portrayed reflect life at the university and in Fredericton. The

immediate reason for the exhibition was the delivery of *Like Agincourt*, a series of paintings recording the visit of the Queen to New Brunswick in 1977.

Tom Smith received a M.F.A. (in Ceramics at Alfred University), and has been a member of the Education Faculty at UNB since 1973.

The Inuit Prints have been given to the University by Mrs. A. Murray Vaughan and Mr. Allen Magee of St. Andrews, enriching the Permanent Collection with a significant representation of Eskimo Art.

Book exhibit at Library

By PAM SAUNDERS

The second annual Book Show will be held at the Harriet Irving Library throughout Encaenia Week, May 14-18, 1979. The theme of the show is the history of book illustration, from illuminated manuscripts to computer art. Woodcuts, copperplates, lithographs, steel engravings and colour printings are included in the display, with a special exhibit of printing from the Orient. The exhibit will be open from 8:30-9:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday, in Room 213.

Several librarians have planned the exhibit: Roberta Weiner, of the Circulation Department; Judy Alders of the Technical Services Division; Bryce Allen and Richard Anderson of the Collections and Development Department; and Elizabeth Hamilton of Documents. Prof. Theo. Weiner also helped to organize the show.

Mrs. Weiner explained that the exhibit stressed books that people could handle, many of them from the stacks, rather than rare books.

She stated that while in some cases original prints and copper plates are displayed, earlier items are available only as facsimile reprints.

It is hoped that the Book Show

will continue to be an event. According to Mrs. V. possibilities for future editions include a history of periodicals and newspapers, and a study of university presses.

Return of A.J. Raffles

THE RETURN OF A.J. RAFFLES by Graham Greene.

RUN: July 7 to July 21 -- then moves to Halifax, July 24 to August 5.

JOHN NEVILLE in the role of A.J. Raffles...

JOHN NEVILLE is regarded internationally as one of the world's foremost classical actors; particularly acclaimed for his exciting appearance in the London Old Vic production of OTHELLO in which he and Richard Burton alternated the role of Othello and Iago.

Mr. Neville was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his

outstanding contribution to

atre in the United Kingdom.

He came to Canada in 1971. After directing and acting in The National Arts Centre Ottawa and The Manitoba Theatre Centre, he became the

Director of The Citadel Theatre, Edmonton. Then, in 1977, he moved to Nova Scotia and became the artistic director of Neptune Theatre.

At the moment, he is appearing with Douglas Campbell in C. Dyer's STAIRCASE at Neptune Theatre.

This production of THE RETURN OF A.J. RAFFLES will be directed by Malcolm Black of Theatre Brunswick.