

# UNB fares well at drama festival

By N. PICOT

The New Brunswick Drama Festival was resurrected this year by the New Brunswick Drama League after a recess of several years. UNB Workshop Productions presented Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" produced by Professor Ed Mullaly, and directed by Professor Alvin Shaw. On the opening night of the Festival, the public and the adjudicator, Mr. Robert More of Stratford, Ontario were treated to a very moving performance. Mr. More was very pleased with the groups performance saying that if this play was an indication of what was to come in the festival "we are in for a good week." The play secured the Best Director and Best Actress Awards.

Peter Pacey, a graduate student at UNB was nominated for the title of Best Actor for his performance of Tom in "The Glass Menagerie". In the private adjudication, Mr. More said that Pacey had a good sense of the poetry and the rhythm in the script. He handled Tom very well on stage, and generally, his performance was sensitive and effective. Mr. More described Pacey's last soliloquy as "haunting". After what the adjudicator called "a very difficult decision—a virtual tie" because he could not determine which of the nominees for the award was the "better actor", the prize went to Jamie Crooks for his singular performance in Mount Allison's "The Fantastiks." Mr. More said that he was "amazed" when he learned that this was the first time that Pacey had ever performed in a serious drama production.

More was similarly impressed

with David Veniot who played Jim, the gentleman caller, because of the limited time that he had to work with the character assuming the part just one week before opening. He said that in such a short time, Veniot had captured the essence of the character and that he had a good sense of timing which made the touching scene with Laura "lovely". For his performance, David Veniot was nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

Alice Hamilton received the Best Actress Award for her sensitive portrayal of the crippled Laura. More said that her insight into her role gave her characterization a high quality of belief. Alice says she owes a lot to her experience at Theatre New Brunswick. She acted with the Young Company for two summer seasons and most recently appeared in the mainstage production of "The Return of A.J. Raffles" directed by Malcolm Black.

Joan Spurway, a veteran of the amateur stage was nominated in the Best Actress category for her performance of the demanding role of Amanda. More was impressed with her interpretation of the role for "even after fifteen or twenty years of experience an actress would find this role very difficult". He praised her portrayal of Amanda, particularly in the second act, saying that was "tremendously likable, where she could have been annoying."

Professor Alvin Shaw was awarded the Best Director title for his insight and interpretation of the script. Shaw is well known as a director for his productions in past New Brunswick festivals. The entire cast paid tribute to this fine direction and the experience work-



JUDY KAVANAGH Photo

David Veniot as the gentleman caller and Alice Hamilton as Laura in rehearsal for the Glass Menagerie

king with him.

In an interview, Peter Pacey former FHS English teacher said "This festival will hopefully mark a resurgence of amateur drama in the province akin to the tremendous success of the High School Drama Festival held on Campus each spring". Commenting on his present student status, Pacey said "It was great to have the opportunity to participate in the festival. I'm looking forward to seeing what Malcolm Black, Artistic Director of TNB does with "The Glass Menagerie" later this season.

Malcolm Black's student subscription policy should do much to promote student interest in local theatre. I've already purchased my student subscription and I am anticipating a good season."

The success of this years festival can be attributed to the New

Brunswick Drama League Executive and the Festival Committee, chaired by Professor Robert Whaler of UNB's Romance Languages Department and assisted by Professors Robert McNutt and Tom Crothers of the Faculty of Education.

## SOS coffeehouse

You like it before, you'll like it even more—that's how S.O.S.'s upcoming coffeehouse is being described as Gene-singer/song writer

for Anne Murray is going to be the featured guest for this coffee house along with his associate Marty Reno. Gene who is better known for the popular lyrics of Snowbird and Put your Hand in the Hands of the Man now resides in Toronto.

S.O.S. outreach is a group of 12 young Christian people who are actively involved in both campus and off-campus outreach. Their strategies have been mostly through coffeehouses, music, drama and rallies.

The coffeehouse is being held at Memorial Hall on December 2 at 8:30 pm. Admissions free. Along with Gene and Marty there will be the S.O.S. singers, composed of Kevin Thompson, Daniel Currie, Ed Pugh, Paul Moffett and Marilyn Calhou and Snady Ferris. Willow Edwards will be sharing a brief message. The co-ordinator of SOS is Kaj Sandu, a native of Kenya and a 5th year BeD student at St. Thomas university.

An evening of fine music and drama awaits you.

You are Invited to Attend

CHRISTMAS CHOICE

Our Annual Sale of Crafts  
on Sunday, December 2, 12 noon to 5 pm  
in Memorial Hall Auditorium

and

The Annual Exhibition of Paintings,  
Drawings, Prints and Sculptures

in the Art Centre Gallery and Studio  
from December 2 to 13, 1979

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