

Open Space blossoms

Testing ground for fledgling playwrights

Last week the York cabaret, opening soon in the Vanier Open End coffee shop, announced that it was seeking writers, actors and directors for short skits and musical numbers, and could be reached through Rick Wolfe at 667-3970.

This week the Toronto Free Theatre, at 24 Berkeley Street, offered the same sort of "testing and performance ground", but for anyone with ideas on writing, developing, acting in or directing longer plays.

The emphasis is on ideas and scripts in their early stage of development, so that all concerned may learn new techniques for rehearsal and performance. No set format has been established, and each project will be developed according to its specific needs.

To avoid limiting the type of script or idea accepted, criteria for choosing projects will not be set.

The workshop is open to students, both non-professional and professional, and the exact schedule will depend on the nature of the project involved. Salaries will be determined by Equity rules where applicable, by the length of time required to develop the work, or by the amount of funds available.

Anyone interested in working in the Open Space, (the name given to the workshop programme,) is in-

vited to call Saul Rubinek or Carol Bolt at the Toronto Free Theatre, at 368-2856.

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Theatre-goers with transportation to Scarborough may be interested in the Scarborough Theatre Guild's first production of the season, John Mortimer's *Come As You Are*, which opens tonight.

The presentation includes only three of the four original playlets, but they sound fascinating: Mill Hill takes place in the boudoir of the wife of a successful Harley Street dentist who is entertaining her rather kinky lover. Bermondsey is set in the living-room of the owners of a pub on Christmas Eve. And Marble Arch jumps back into the boudoir of a has-been movie star whose lover decides to expire in her bathroom.

The production is at Playhouse 66, 66 Denton Avenue in Scarborough. For further information, contact Shirley Gent at 868-1972.

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Italian art lovers are advised that Saturday night marks the opening of a five-week long exhibition entitled, "Art and landscape of Italy — too late to be saved?", at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The display, accompanied by a well-illustrated catalogue, "reveals

the damage which the natural and man-made environment of Italy has already suffered, and indicates problems which must be overcome if the invaluable legacy of Italy is to be preserved for mankind."

Those who feel disinclined to deal with such weighty matters may relax at the gallery's free "classical brass" concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday. And film-lovers can dive into the Italian problem on Sept. 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. with the films, *Return to Florence*, *City out of Time*, *Will Art Last?*, and *Venice in Peril*.

The gallery is situated on Dundas Street West at Beverley.

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The Cinema of Solidarity, a politically-oriented film festival sponsored by the Toronto Com-

mittee for the Liberation of Portugal's African Colonies, is showing its first movie Sunday night at 8 p.m.

The film, *Report from China*, (1970), is a look by Japan's leading woman film-maker into life in the People's Republic of China. Made in Manchuria, the northeast sector of China, the film boasts scenes ranging from work on a cooperative farm which still makes its own fertilizer and rope, to work in heavy industry in an urban context. The report portrays some of the effects of the Cultural Revolution on China and its people.

The solidarity series, which promises future films on Fidel Castro, Senegal and South Africa, will be run at the University of Toronto's Medical Science

Auditorium by the St. George subway stop. A series ticket for eight films costs \$9, and single entry tickets cost \$1.50 for everyone except students and the unemployed, who get in for \$1.25.

All profits will be used to buy a truck for the Mozambique Liberation Front.

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And last but not least, a Smokers Anonymous program has begun at the Broadview YMCA, 275 Broadview at Gerrard.

If you're thinking of kicking the weed, or are struggling not to take it up again, phone the group at 964-1112. It's a non-profit mutual help organization, and costs \$15 for a year's membership, \$5 of which is refundable upon completion of evaluation forms.

Internationally acclaimed Burton

York presents jazz evening

Internationally acclaimed jazz vibraphonist Gary Burton will swing down over Burton Auditorium with his quartet on Monday, September 24 at 8:30 p.m.

The evening of jazz is the first event in York's Performing Arts Series, a year-long festival which has up its sleeve everyone from Ravi Shankar to the Open Theatre. The Gary Burton Quartet is part of the

"jazz and electronics" section, which will offer an evening of electronic improvisational music by Light with David Rosenboom on November 21, and the New York Jazz Quartet on January 28.

Concerning this Monday's offering, the American trade paper *Billboard* wrote, "The Gary Burton Quartet justified their reputation as one of the most imaginative, original

and resourcefully creative units on the contemporary jazz scene."

Prices for individual events in the series are \$3.50 for York students, \$5.50 for staff and \$7 for the general public. For tickets and further information, visit the Burton Auditorium box office on weekdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.



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1) Sept. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29*

2) Oct. 2, 3, 4, 5

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