

The Hovel: "Best of its kind in Canada"

There are not many ways to listen to live music in Edmonton. If you like hearing deafening rock'n'roll in the company of loud drunks and stoned out people, go to the bars, lounges, and concerts. If that's not your

bag you'll find that there are few places to go to in Edmonton. The only place that regularly presents a varied diet of music is the Hovel.

The Hovel was founded almost five years ago. It then

existed in a dingy hall just a hole-in-the-wall away from a pizza joint. It wasn't well known in those days, and if it was known at all, it was considered a shady institution. Like "Reefer Madness", it caused insanity and led to ruined lives.

Things have changed. The Hovel moved to its present location on Jasper and 109th. People started to notice that good music could almost always be heard there. Musicians of the stature of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Jesse Winchester and Rahsaan Roland Kirk have appeared there; while a host of excellent lesser-knowns have faced the large Hovel audiences. It has become so well known that after the recent BS&T concert, members of that band appeared at the Hovel to perform on "Open Stage" night.

The Hovel is not the work of any one individual, but the collective creation of all the people who have worked there. Anyone who wants to volunteer to work there is welcome, and is always appreciated. Though the Hovel is run as a business, it is not a business whose sole purpose is to show a profit. Those responsible for its operation say that they wish to "convey the presence of an artistic reality in a social environment", that they feel themselves part of the community and want to act as such. They sponsor occasional benefits for worthwhile causes, and yet continue to make enough money to stay above water.

Many of the musicians who they bring in are suggested to them by members of their audiences. Some of those suggested are too high-priced

- Mike Taylor of "Humphrey and the Dump-trucks"



for the Hovel, although they might fit in with what the Hovel wants in their performers. Where possible, they prefer to present artists who are expressive with their music, creative and sincere individuals. For many of these, especially those who are songwriters, the Hovel may well be their only Edmonton exposure.

For such musicians just starting out, a large-scale coffee-house audience is necessary for survival. Without the New York coffee houses, Dylan, Judy Collins, and others would have had a much more difficult time in reaching an audience. Joni Mitchell was launched in Canadian coffee houses.

In Canada, the number of coffee-houses is apparently declining, and before the Hovel was opened in Edmonton there had been no coffee-house in the city for about a year. The Hovel, run as a society with membership open to the public, has, even despite its frequent financial problems managed to both please its audience and support the musicians. Without

it, both groups would be missing a great deal.

Over the years, the audience at the Hovel has changed. People have been attending it since it first opened, while new faces appear at every show. They still come when the Hovel presents unusual musicians, indicating an increasing sophistication in Edmonton audiences. Hovel fans will be pleased to know that the Hovel plans to finish renovating its premises, updating the washrooms and adding a new sound system. An acoustic stage is also considered which would make any sound system unnecessary.

In the next few months the Hovel plans to present Paul Hann, Bob Carpenter, Brent Titcomb and Leon Redbone, as well as possibly bringing in Shirley Eikhardt and others. Jesse Winchester will be returning in several months, and other old favourites will most likely appear again. When they do, they will find both an audience and a stage in the Hovel.

by John Owen Robert Ferris

Students' Union Cinema

Francis Truffaut's
**MISSISSIPPI
MERMAID**

Wednesday, December 3

Adult NSFC

AMERICAN GRAFFITI

Fri, Sat, Sun,
Dec. 5, 6, 7

Adult

Two shows nightly - SUB Theatre
Doors open 6:30 - 9 PM
Complete showing 7 & 9:30 PM

Tickets at the door \$1.50
SU members advance ticket \$1
Tickets available at SU Box Office HUB

In Concert WILLIAM TRITT



with Special Guest
The University of Alberta
String Quartet



8:30 PM SUB Theatre
Thursday December 4

Tickets \$3.00/\$4.00 SU Box Office At the Door

"EXHILARATING AND EXCITING... A HUMANE
AND INTELLIGENT MOVIE DOCUMENT!"

— Globe and Mail

"A shameful episode handled with finesse.
Timely in the warning it conveys about the
fragility of democratic institutions!"

— TORONTO STAR

special section

Do State Politics justify murder?

Grand prize
for
direction
Cannes 1975
Official
award

a film by
costa-gavras

dialogues of Jorge Semprun

Adult

RELEASING IN CANADA BY
AMBASSADOR FILM DISTRIBUTORS

NOW PLAYING

WESTMOUNT B

114 AVENUE & Groat Rd 455 1793