For Art's Sake

FEATURE

For Everyone's Sake

By STAN KLICH

f you haven't been acutely aware that there is a Faculty of Fine Arts at York University, you will be by the end of next week.

Beginning Monday, February 2 and continuing until Friday, February 6, the Faculty of Fine Arts will be presenting their "Art for York's Sake" Festival and there will be a little bit of everything for everyone.

"The idea of the festival is to see as many people as possible perform and display their work and see both the audience and the artists having fun," said Susan Watt, the head of the committee for the festival. "We want all of York to be involved and we're aiming at providing a lot of fun for everyone in and outside of Fine Arts," she added. Involving the departments of music, theatre, dance, film and video and visual arts, presentations will be made at the various colleges and campus buildings.

Funded by the Office of the Provost in cooperation with the Office of Student Affairs and the Faculty of Fine Arts' Dean's Office, the festival originally began three years ago as an art show for the Visual Arts department run by a few students and their student council. Starting humbly as a parody of the Art Gallery of Ontario's European Iceberg Art Show, Visual Arts students created the York Ice Cube. This then led to a larger festival, which unfortunately had little impact on the campus community as a whole. With the increased fund, however, the festival has been able to expand to include the other departments and thereby involve York as a whole.

The planning for this year's festival began with a proposal made in the summer. Since November, "the committee has worked tirelessly," Watt said. "The provost, the Dean and the entire Faculty of Fine Arts have been absolutely and unrelentlessly helpful and 100 percent behind us," Watt added.

The festival kicks off Monday at 10: 30 outside the Fine Arts building with a small opening by the Dean followed by a reception for students

in the Fine Arts lobby with hot chocolate and jazz. Also included in the opening festivities will be a critics forum in room 312 of the Fine Arts building with guests such as Peter Goddard and William Littler, both from the Toronto Star, present.

Throughout the week, the departments will be holding their presentations all over campus. Music, the busiest of the departments in the festival, will feature both classical and jazz musicians of which many have already embarked upon professional careers while pursuing their studies. Alumni such as the Shuffle Demons as well as other graduate and undergraduate students will be playing, and as Watt explains, "they're a bunch of very talented musicians and they're out to show their work. They deserve the exposure."

The Theatre department will be involved in various types of improvisation aimed at "showing the rest of the University what they can do," said Watt and there will be a display of various theatrical costumes in Central Square.

A preview edition of YAK, York's newest literary and visual magazine, will be printed as one more chapter of the festival. YAK offers all York students a chance to display their work, as it features poetry, prose and

Poetry readings and performances will involve the Fine Arts Studies program, and the main event for the department of Film and Video will be a slide show put together by first year students. The slide show will be presented at Nat Taylor Cinema on Thursday, February 5.

Visual Arts has created another parody of an Art Gallery of Ontario display, focusing their attention on the Papal presentation the AGO recently had. The display has been dubbed "The Dean Sends Her Best" and will be presented in the Fine Arts building. There is also an Italian luncheon on Tuesday at noon for the low price of \$1.50.

Along with all these presentations, the Dance department has choreographed works that will be premiered at the festival, some of which will later be performed downtown at the Winchester Street Theatre.

There are also numerous events for the student body to participate in. All week long in the Bear Pit, a York mural will be created. "Anyone can paint a piece that will later be part of a large mural. We'd like to see absolutely everyone there," Watt



LUST IS BETTER THAN LOVE: The band members from Penguin J.(azz) Lust love their music and their plants. Bruce Krever, Patricia Wheeler, Bruce Weitz and James Hill.

A snow sculpting contest will take place on Wednesday, February 4 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. outside the Fine Arts building, followed by hot cider. And to top everything off, there will be a Variety Show at the Atkinson Theatre on Friday. Admission is free and the show is followed by a dance in the Fine Arts building.

This year's Arts Festival covers a lot of ground and even if one is not inclined to the fine arts, which are such an integral part of this University, it seems that it will be difficult not to notice them after next week.

For Dance's Sake

By LOREN ARDUINI

t takes a lot of time, sweat and talent to put together an exciting and entertaining show. York's Dance department hopes that the pieces to be performed at next week's Fine Arts Festival will reflect the fruits of its labour. But what sets the Dance department apart from the others is its endless thirst for the unusual and unique.

An example of its uniqueness is the courage it shows in daring to perfrom one of its pieces outside, in the dead of winter, in front of the Fine Arts Building (FAB). "Snow Piece," as it is nicknamed by the dancers, combines a tall white claw-like sculpture by Colm McCool, upbeat music from the film Diva, and some of the most avant-garde dance moves the department could cook up. The effect created is a sensation of sight, sound and emotion.

The choreographers of "Snow Piece," Denise Doric and Janet Johnson, provide the group of eight dancers with guidance and instill a feeling of excitement which is released during the performance. The piece involves a ritual of unusual and bizarre moves which revolve around McCool's outdoor sculp-

"The Jam" is more like a game than a completely choreographed dance performance. The piece requires that each of the 12 dancers develop a "movement phrase" which describes a particular move that all of the dancers are expected to know. While the music plays, a dancer will shout a certain "movement phrase" and all of the dancers will then perform the move. At a fast pace, the creative piece becomes light-hearted, somewhat embarrassing at times, and fun to watch.

Another piece which will be presented for the festival is "Impulsive Sparks." Choreographed by Denise Doric, the piece molds together a surprising combination of interesting moves performed by five dancers. Presented in collaboration with two musicians from the department of Music, the piece will be performed as part of Friday's Variety Show and will also be part of the lunchtime dance series. Andrea Nann's "Jock Full of Bourbon," which was a hit at the December Dance Concert, is another piece scheduled for the Variety Show.

The lunchtime dance series is also part of the Dance department's contribution to the Fine Arts Festival. Each day of the festival, the dancers in the upper year classes will perform brief pieces in the lobby of the FAB at noon.

The tentative schedule of events for the Dance department next week is as follows:

- ☐ Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.: the Jam— FAB lobby.
- □ Thursday, 1:00 p.m.: Snow Piece—outside in front of FAB.
- ☐ Friday, 7:00 p.m.: Variety Show with Impulsive Sparks and Jock Full of Bourbon.

For Music's Sake

By BRIAN POSER

Excalibur caught up with James Hill in a spacious practice room in McLaughlin College last week as he prepared for a rehearsal with his four-member jazz band, Penguin J.(azz) Lust.

Hill is a third year student who is involved in coordinating the Music Department's participation in the upcoming Fine Arts Festival '87.

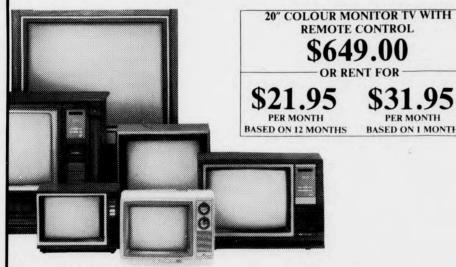
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