

Randall Multi-talented

by Eric Simpson

The Neptune Theater production of Chekhov's *The Sea Gull* which opens on March 2 will allow Haligonians to appreciate the dramatic skills of a major force in American theater, cinema and television—Tony Randall.

Primarily known for his comic roles in the *Odd Couple* and the *Tony Randall Show*, and his movie successes with Marilyn Monroe and Debbie Reynolds, Randall has also appeared in numerous stage presentations. Shaw's *Cesar and Cleopatra*, Lee's *Inherit the Wind* and the *Barretts of Wimpole Street* are a few of his past stage credits. In addition to his acting, Randall is an authority on opera and a student of the arts.

Randall is also known for his outspoken views such as his stand against the Viet Nam war. When he arrived in Halifax he was asked about the upcoming Oscar competition and he replied: "I'm not going to vote, none of the films were any good this year. A good movie is a miracle. God looks down and says 'Here's your

chance . . . now you owe me one"

Randall came to Halifax at the invitation of John Neville the director of Neptune, and the financing of the *Sea Gull* is being partially underwritten by Imperial Oil of Canada Limited.

Randall has only four weeks to rehearse the part of Trigorin, a literary man, but he is a quick study—meaning he only has to look at the script once to get a feel for the part.

John Neville, who in an untypical gesture literally went down on his knees to thank Imperial Oil (cutbacks in grants can really affect a man) said he has the best cast ever assembled in Halifax. It includes Florence Patterson, Keith Dinicol, and Brent Carver along with Randall.

Tony Randall, a master at the one line remark, is an easy going and erudite conversationalist. Halifax audiences will have the opportunity next month to see whether Randall's dramatic persona is as pleasing as his comic and real life self.



Photo / Simkins

Stars of CUPE benefit concert carouse on stage

CUPE and Capers celebrate in boisterous benefit

by Sheena Masson

About 500 people attended the benefit concert held at Queen Elizabeth High last Wednesday for the CUPE strikers. The stars of the show were Buddy and the Boys, David Harley, a "sit-down comedian", and four other musicians. The CBC were there with their cameras. The *Chronicle-Herald* wasn't.

Support for the strikers has come from a number of unlikely sources. The response of CUPE management to the offer that Buddy and the Boys do a benefit was "Buddy who?" After Wednesday night's success, the band will be known to local members at least.

The idea for the show originated with Rick Williams of the School of Social Work. He approached Kenzie

MacNeil, a well known musician, and the Boys, who readily agreed according to Max MacDonald, alias Buddy. The performers who sported CUPE buttons, are mostly from Cape Breton and familiar with the strike issue. Max

explained "when you see someone getting screwed you have two options. You can turn and walk away or you can step in."

Kenzie, who co-ordinated the show, performed after the Boys warmed up with a couple

of numbers. He is presently at work on a film about the Maritimes and Confederation and sang of that time of wooden schooners.

Kenzie was followed by a first-year theatre student from Dal, 22 year old Bonnie LeClair who sang four of her own songs. Bonnie has a mellow, flexible voice reminiscent of . . . well, what does it matter. She has performed at concerts and on TV with such notables as Gordon Lightfoot and John Allan Cameron.

Ron MacEachern, as was discovered next, plays fiddle as well as his usual assortment of crazy, wild-eyed Cape Breton songs. Ron is coming to be known these days for his beautiful a cappella renditions of traditional tunes.

Jamie Snyder, formerly of

Red Island, performed next. You may have noticed him this summer fiddling for nickels and dimes at the Public Gardens gates. He sang of the Maritimes today, minus the open fiddle case.

Many of the songs heard that night were a reminder that this region is not just Eastern Canada, land of exploitation and unemployment but the Maritimes. These songs said "you need not define yourselves by the rest of Canada."

In between sets David Harley "Bob Loblaw (Bla-Bla)" sat down to entertain the audience with his wild imagination. He announced that the Queen was not coming and read a note of apology from H.R.H. This followed a news broadcast in which the audience watched on an im-

aginary screen as a giant fish crossed the MacDonald Bridge, threw his quarter in the bucket and ate Dartmouth. "Mayor Morris said, 'Of course we'll miss it,'" Bob told us.

Viewers were also informed that Nova Scotia would have an entry in the Rose Bowl Parade next year. Our entry would come at the end of the parade when a hundred foot high wall of water would slam down the parade route drowning thousands. The entry, Bob had heard, was certain to help the tourist trade.

Mop in hand, Bob joined the band and other performers for a rousing round-up number, "Let's Go Use the Mop" (sung to "Let's Go to the Hop"). The last number was the slow paced "Should the Circle be Unbroken." Florence Logan, President of CUPE Local 1392, appeared briefly to give a rather uninspired but sincere thank you.

As Al Cunningham, CUPE negotiator, said afterward, it was a "warm show." The CUPE people present were pleased with the show which raised approximately two thousand dollars. Some of this money will be used to pay for the headquarters rented during the strike. The main use for the money however, Cunningham said, will be to help with some of the bills which the cleaners have accumulated while on strike and are unable to pay.

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