Firehall Theatre

Acting good, but Wilson's Sky is lemon

By ROBIN BECKWITH

The Firehall Theatre is continuing in its tradition of introducing littleknown playwrights to the Toronto public.

To such names as Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter and James Reanev is author of Lemon Sky, the current opener at the Firehall. Unfortunateearliest, prevents Wilson's being included amongst these now-eminent writers.

narrates the story of his confrontation with his father and becomes a

part of the action of his story. He jerks from character to narrator, thus preventing audience and actors from becoming deeply involved in a potentially valuable experience.

Alan's father and stepmother become narrators within Alan's story added that of Langford Wilson, the as well, so that one always feels hazy about where Wilson is in time.

Of all the elements of this producly, the play itself, one of Wilson's tion, Lucien Parmentier's set is the most striking. From the theatre's ceiling hangs a wooden frame of a roof from which are suspended Alan the protagonist, both wooden window-frames. There is a scrim behind the house's interior on which one sees the suggestion of

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California mountains and through which shades of blue or yellow light are shone to give the effect of day or

Generally speaking, the acting—considering all but Chris Britten, who played Alan, are amateurs-was of good quality.

Those characters whose depth and

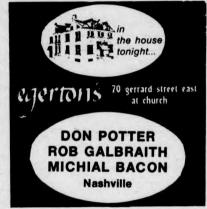
author were performed with like qualities by the actors. Cheryl Kramsky and Jean Melusky as Penny and Carol, two parolee-boarders, and Lawrence Beckwith as Jerry, Alan's half-brother, played three such fortunate characters.

Gordan Jocelyn, as Alan's father,

consistency was developed by the managed also to develop a feeling of continuity and involvement, in spite of Wilson's characterization.

Chris Britten, and Joan Shaw as Alan's mother, suffered the most from Wilson's shallow approach to his material.

It is good to see Toronto being exposed to new and rising playwrights. I just hope Lemon Sky is not a true indicator of what will be considered worthwhile theatre ten years from



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Richard Benjamin and James Brodie tackle robot Yul Brynner in Westworld, Michael Crichton's entry into the field of wild west science fiction. Winters shows it Friday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m. in Curtis LH-I, \$1.50 general, \$1.25 Winters.

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