

Making mayhem

By KEN KEOBKE

Mary has a problem. Like other proper girls her age in the 1700s, she longs to see something of the world. Her interest in what lies beyond her London sitting room window is fed by her father who allows her the books of all the radical thinkers of the age. However, her father expects that she remain a lady and, therefore, remain at home. Confiding her desire to her ill-meaning maid, Mrs. Temptwell, Mary is encouraged in the daring decision to sneak out and roam the streets.

What follows in Toronto Free Theatre's production of *The Grace of Mary Traverse* is two hours of rape, lesbian sex, male prostitution, gambling, cockfights (yes, the colourful cocks have penises for heads), abuse of two old women in hag races, incest, burnings, riot, revolution, a satanic attempt at infanticide *au flambe*, and a hanging. Presumably, those who left after the first act did so to go home and check on their daughters.

Written by British playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker, *The Grace of Mary Traverse* is inspired by the Hogarth etchings of *A Rake's Progress*, substituting a woman for the

central character.

Witticism was considered a major asset in 18th century London when men gathered in private clubs sipping cup after cup of coffee brewed with wine. Such witticisms pervade the play as each of the 11 speaking roles has many monologues to present. Particularly rich is the sexual imagery surrounding the cockfight with everyone but the soft-spoken Sophie getting in on the humour. Throughout the play, Sophie has little to say. The name Sophie, we later learn, means wisdom.

Playing a simpleton is no simple matter and Kristina Nicoll is an extremely convincing Sophie. Kate Trotter is also excellent in the demanding role of Mary, portraying a certain ignorance and innocence throughout the havoc she creates in the lives of all those around her. Graeme Campbell also makes the play worth seeing although it was a bit of a disappointment that a costume change as slight as a wig was used to differentiate his two roles as Mary's father and Lord Exrake. The rest of the cast was also excellent, with the exception of Diana LeBlanc's second act choice of a Linda Blair-*Exorcist*-voice which became as tedious as it was irritating.

cont'd on p. 14

Art meets Star Wars



THE NEW CAMELOT: Larry (Jack Nicholson [not that Jack]), Ayla (Djanet Sears) and the young King Arthur (Kevin Stewart) turn their back on the evil dragon (Robert Nesmith).

By WENDY QUINTON

Technological saturation is a mainstay of twentieth century society. The trick is combining hi-tech gadgetry with humanistic elements in order to bring believability to the plot.

Young Art, currently playing at the Theatre Passe Muraille, attempts to do just this as it mixes the conventions of King Arthur's era with modern innovations. Written by Brad Fraser and directed by Paul Thompson, *Young Art* is a futuristic version of the King Arthur legend that takes Arthur to our century and beyond.

Young Art (Kevin Stewart) and his hero Merlin the magician (Patrick Brymer) are discussing Arthur's future when Merlin is suddenly killed by a fiery dragon (Robert Nesmith) and Art is left alone in Merlin's desolate cavern.

But all is not hopeless because before his death, Merlin tells young Art of his future role as king of Camelot and of his duty to slay the dragon. Art, however, is not alone in his quest, for Merlin stages a meeting with two characters from different eras in time. Trapped in a time warp, Larry (Jack Nicholson), a hippie from the 60s and Ayla (Djanet Sears) a war goddess from the future, assist Art in his fight against the dragon.

The trio set out to find the dragon and inevitably run into a series of conflicts. It is Merlin's intention that this team of misfits help teach Art the skills necessary to be a king.

The moral lessons in the play never cease but just when everything seems at ease, writer Brad Fraser adds another twist to Art's journey

via the introduction of the evil demon (Patrick Brymer) whose powers periodically control the actions of the three characters. The spells exercised on the trio—the swapping of personalities and the manipulation of their emotions—provide a humorous element to a somewhat serious story. As in most traditional stories, good must conquer evil, but with *this* tale, battles take place with laser guns, smoke bombs and the inevitable magic sword.

Essential to this play was the arrangement of the props which utilized all available space. The stage provided the shadowy remnants of the Arthurian age but was cluttered with a video arcade game, television and refrigerator. The set was carefully constructed providing a main stage with openings to Merlin's cavern and a second stage above, allowing two additional openings which led to more endless corridors.

The characters were well developed, and Patrick Brymer's humour, as Merlin, was an essential element to the play's success. The juxtaposition of Merlin's characters and that of the absent-minded magician with the sly and conniving demon provided comic relief for some of the play's intensely emotional and occasionally lengthy scenes.

The emotional attachment between the characters resulted in a coherent story combining twentieth century wizardry with medieval heroism. The fascinating combination of chivalry and technology makes *Young Art* an interesting and entertaining play.

PREPARE FOR:

**LSAT GMAT
MCAT SAT
GRE DAT**

SPEEDREADING

**ADVANCED
MEDICAL
BOARDS**

SKAPLAN
STANLEY H. KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER
OF CANADA LTD.

(416) 967-4733

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

QUEEN ELIZABETH SILVER JUBILEE AWARD

The Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Award is a scholarship meant to encourage young Canadians who wish to become proficient in their second official language to pursue studies in their second official language. The award supports one year's continuation at the undergraduate level in the field of study in which the applicant is enrolled at his or her home universities.

The award is valued at \$5,000 plus transportation expenses.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants and must have successfully completed at least one year of an undergraduate university program prior to the year of the award. They must have sufficient ability in the second official language to pursue disciplinary studies in that language.

Only one candidate may be nominated by York University.

For additional information and application forms, please contact the Office of the Provost (S920 Ross, 736-5275).

**Deadline for receipt of applications
is February 6, 1987.**

PARTY

with Campus Marketing

YOUR BEST DEAL TO FORT LAUDERDALE

February 13-22

YOU DRIVE (TO THE PARTY)

**\$189.00
CDN**

WE DRIVE (THE PARTY STARTS HERE)

**\$329.00
CDN**

INCLUDES:

- Round trip motor coach transportation to beautiful Fort Lauderdale (WE DRIVE Packages Only). We use nothing but modern highway coaches.
- Eight Florida days/seven endless nights at one of our exciting oceanfront hotels, located right on the Fort Lauderdale strip. Your hotel has a beautiful pool, sun deck, air conditioned rooms, color TV, and a nice long stretch of beach.
- FREE pool deck parties.
- A full list of pre-arranged discounts to save you money in Fort Lauderdale.
- Travel representatives to insure a smooth trip and a good time.
- All taxes and tips.

SPEND A WEEK — NOT A FORTUNE

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
AND SIGN UP**

CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-423-5264

Dino - 454-8418

Sponsored by Campus Marketing "EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS IN COLLEGE TOURS"



Campus Marketing, Inc. is a U.S. based corporation offering tours in Canada and therefore is not covered by the current Travel Industry Act. Campus Representatives exist only to expedite materials and escort tours.

Campus Marketing, Inc.
P.O. Box 2788
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60138

