

ENTERTAINMENT

Talking of death

'Night Mother
Phoenix Theatre
Jubilee Auditorium
through December 2

review by Mike Evans

Thelma: If you've got the guts to kill yourself, Jessie, you've got the guts to stay alive.

Jessie: I know that, mama. So it's really just a matter of where I'd rather be.

Phoenix Theatre's current production of 'Night Mother is an unusually challenging piece of theatre for both actresses and audience, and it almost comes off. In terms of action, almost nothing happens. 'Night Mother is simply the story of a young woman determined to kill herself one evening. She does. Her mother, of course, tries to dissuade her.

The dialogue more than makes up for the lack of action. Jessie (Bridget O'Sullivan) tries with unnerving cool rationality to explain her motives to her mother (Jennifer Phipps) and to prepare her for life without her. In analysing the calm desperation, the sense of futility, that accompanies so many suicides,

playwright Marsha Norman is enormously successful. The actresses, however, are not as effective.

Both O'Sullivan and Phipps missed several lines, with accompanying hesitancy. Presumably, this will be rectified as the run progresses. A fault less easily forgiven, though, is the actresses' tendency to act as islands. Very frequently, communication between them broke down, leaving each actress isolated.

It should be noted that there were moments of surprising humour and tenderness as Jessie tried to prepare her mother for her imminent absence.

And yet, though the hit-and-miss acting makes emotional involvement difficult, 'Night Mother is still intellectually involving.

There is a certain inevitability to the final gunshot that is strangely satisfying.

Stancel Campbell's design is suitably tacky, evoking lower-class Mid-Western American Kitsch with depressing accuracy. Leslie Frankish's costumes are also suitably . . . ordinary.

'Night Mother itself is well worth viewing. I would wait a week or two for director Bob Baker and his actresses to tighten the production, though.



Bridget O'Sullivan (left) plays Jessie, and Jennifer Phipps plays her mother in 'Night Mother.

Richly textured tones

The Textones
Midnight Mission
Gold Mountain/A & M

review by David Jordan

The Textones have gone through a lot of changes since their inception in L.A. in 1977. The original foursome recorded four songs in '79, including "Vacation," which bassist Kathy Valentine took with her when she defected to the Go Go's.

By 1980, two more original members left, to be replaced by Joe Read and Phil Seymour. Tom Morgan rounded out the current lineup with the addition of his sax and keyboards.

Carla Olson, lead guitarist, vocalist, and only remaining original member, persisted through those six years, convinced that under all those transformations was a thread of something great.

On this album, all the pieces finally come

together, due largely to the organizational influence of co-producer Barry Goldberg. Goldberg is a one-man hit-maker: he played alongside Bob Dylan, wrote several million-sellers, including Rod Stewart's "It's not the Spotlight," and engineered such commercial successes as Tom Petty's *Hard Promises* and John Cougar's *American Fool*.

The material on *Midnight Mission* is nearly evenly divided between bitter love songs and social/political protests. A distinctive flavour that runs throughout is the gritty urban imagery.

Songs about acid rain and blue collar workers may put off listeners who think that rock and politics don't mix. And Goldberg's slick, top 40 touch may put off others. But political songs don't have to be boring, and top 40 doesn't have to be vacuous. The Textones strike a good balance between the two.

more entertainment on p. 12



The Album Playlist is based on Airplay - a combination of programmer preference and listeners' requests. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the **Alternative Countdown** - the favorite albums, EP's singles and tapes.

PLAYLIST

1. The Del Fuegos — The Longest Day (Slash/WEA)
2. Birdsongs of the Mesozoic — Magnetic Flip (Ace of Heart)
3. Various Artists — Primitive Air Raid - Montreal '84 (Psyche - Industry)
4. Holger Hiller — A Bunch of Foulness in the Pit (Cherry Red)
5. Keith Jarrett — Changes (ECM/WEA)
6. Golden Caligarians — Savage Love (Rubber Records)
7. Flipper — Gone Fishing (Subterranean)
8. Frankie Goes to Hollywood — Welcome to the Pleasure Dome (ZTT/MCA)
9. Pat Metheny — First Circle (ECM/WEA)
10. Code of Honor — Beware the Savage Love (Subterranean)
11. XTC — The Big Express (Virgin/Polygram)
12. Skatalites — Scattered Lights (Alligator/WEA)

13. Mark Korven — Passengers (Rave)
14. Various Artists — The Girls Can't Help It (Rhino)
15. Tito Puente — El Rey (Concord Jazz)

EP's, SINGLES & TAPES

1. Robert Wyatt — Work in Progress (Rough Trade/WEA)
2. Jerry Jerry and the Sons of Rhythm Orchestra — The Happy Nun (Tape)
3. Malcom McLaren — Madame Butterfly (Charisma/Polygram)
4. Down Syndrome — Other Ways (Tape)
5. The Pop 'n' Piss — Joe's Second Record (Subterranean)
6. Shelley — Never Again (Immaculate)
7. The Nex'd — Exile (Tape)
8. Bill Ocean — Caribbean Queen (Jive/CBS)
9. Euthanasia — The Glory of God (Tape)
10. Bronski Beat — Smalltown Boy (London/Polygram)

EARN WHILE YOU SKI!

Raise large chunks of U.S. greenbacks for your group . . . even yourself. Be our campus rep for group ski week trips to Whitefish, Montana's legendary

Big Mountain Ski Resort
One trip of 25 people and you'll earn at least \$350 plus a free ski vacation.

Big Mountain Ski Resort
Ski Weeks from \$39 Canadian per person per day (lifts/lodging)

Big Mountain Ski Resort
International Ski "Fun Factor" of 10!

- More nightlife than Lake Louise, Sunshine or Kimberly
- More downhill than Grouse Mountain, Fortress or Big White
- Cheaper lift tickets than Lake Louise or Sunshine
- More chairlift capacity than Panorama
- More lighted night skiing than Whistler, Lake Louise, Sunshine or Panorama
- More Coors beer than EVERYBODY!

For full information contact:
Mark Guest, Director of College Programs Grants/Scholarships

Big Mountain Ski Resort
P.O. Box 1215
Whitefish, Montana 59937
U.S.A.
(406) 862-3511

Going Your Way! TRAVEL CUTS
SAVE \$\$\$ TO SYDNEY!!

SPECIAL STUDENT FARE FROM EDMONTON
only \$1410 (high season included!)

Many adventure packages also available
BOOK NOW for your trip home for the holidays
or your adventure "Down Under"

The travel company of CFS Call toll free: 1-800-268-9044

<p>TRAVEL CUTS EDMONTON Student Union Building University of Alberta Edmonton Alberta T6G 2J7 403 432-2592</p>	<p>TRAVEL CUTS EDMONTON 10424A-118 Avenue Edmonton Alberta T5G 0P7 403 471-8054</p>
---	--

Shear Pleasure

HAIR DESIGN

During November all perms \$10 OFF



Dedicated to making you
look & feel great!

421-4357
corner of
107 Ave. & 109 St.



Having a Party?
Need Catering?

Call Kelley Maki at 432-2090

L'Express

L'Express Cafe
Students' Union Bldg.



We're Here at
Room 250 SUB
Monday to Friday
8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
or call
432-4266

- Everyone has problems; that's why we're here to help.
- We're qualified to help with personal and academic problems of all varieties, in a confidential manner.
- Come in and talk; We'll listen
- Tutor and typist files also available.