

# Possibilities: definitely "not for the weak at heart"

By FRANK CLARKE

Without a doubt the words "gut-wrenching" describe the effect that *The Possibilities* — a new play by British playwright Howard Barker — had on its audience.

*The Possibilities* is actually 10 short, interconnected plays ranging through history from biblical times to an imagined future. Each deals with the theme of human dignity in the face of tyranny, violence, and oppression.

Each play within *The Possibilities* is characterized by a struggle between an authority figure and one who relishes free thought and freedom. For example, in "She Sees the Argument But," a young woman is imprisoned for opposing the state's severe dress

code (intended to curb suggestive sexuality) when she insists on showing her ankles in public. Somewhat 1984ish in concept, this play captures the spirit of *The Possibilities* as the state representative psychologically interrogates the young woman to break her determined resistance.

Even more compelling is "Kiss My Hands," where a woman opens her door to a cry for help only to discover that she has been tricked by terrorists intent on killing her husband. When the husband is about to be dragged to his death, he accuses her of betrayal, yelling "You helped my enemies to murder me!"

However, their peace is made when they make a pledge to forgive each other. Despite impending

doom, humanity has won a small victory.

Set against backdrops of war and oppression, *The Possibilities* is extremely brutal, violent, and not for the weak at heart — people are brutally killed because of their ideologies. This is the sort of production that is neither enjoyed nor loathed — it is just experienced.

Playwright Howard Barker, an ardent socialist, attempts to evoke the passion inherent in ideological struggles. As the play's title denotes, the ten short plays are merely possibilities of moral action against oppression, not celebrations of virtue or heroism.

As much as the play is vicious and unnerving, the performances are compelling and evocative. Most notably are the performances of Tanja Jacobs as the intimidating state representative in "She Sees the Argument But," and John Gilbert as the rebellious idealist bookseller, selling banned books in "Only Some Can Take The Strain." Each actor portrays multiple characters and director Richard Rose does an admirable job developing the multiple characters within a slender narrative frame.

*The Possibilities* demands commitment from its audience, as the play is challenging, and its struggles transgress mere political and social ideologies by presenting different interpretations of morality in worlds that are, at best, gut-wrenching in their brutality.

The show continues at The Theatre Centre (191 Lippincott St.) until March 26. For tickets and information call 927-7735.



Tanya Jacobs holds the World's Smallest Lantern in *The Possibilities*

## Manteca fires up the Junos

cont'd from p. 16

received Black Music Awards.

"To give a black music award to a white band meant they really liked the music," said Heilig. "There was obviously no politics involved, since it would have been easier to give the award to a black band. It shows they're interested in music, not just [race]."

At the Juno Awards this month, Manteca is up for best instrumental recording for their last album *Fire Me Up*. Heilig mentioned that with David Foster as competition, "We

don't expect to win, but at least we were recognized."

The band plans to release a new album in May, and is recording at Manta Sound.

Currently on a tour of Ontario colleges and universities, Manteca plays a licensed show March 9 at 9 p.m. in Winters College Dining Hall. Tickets are \$3 in advance at the Absinthe, or \$4 at the door. Donations for the CYSF Food Bank will be accepted at the door.

**EDITORIAL SCREENINGS  
TODAY  
12:00-1:00**

## CYSF Elections

### Official Candidates List

#### CYSF President

Peter Donato  
Stephanie Infurnari  
Nick Nitsis  
Bernie Polster  
Sean Wagman

#### CYSF VP Internal

Andy Chow  
Caroline Winship

#### CYSF VP External

Scott Allardyce  
Peter Merrick

#### CYSF Calumet College Representatives

Richard Marcovitch  
Dianne Parton  
Peter Seaman  
Andrew Wilkinson

#### Board of Governors

Dean Adema  
Krishna Balkissoon  
David Gilinsky  
Robert Waarbroek

#### Faculty of Arts Student Senators

Dwayne Conrad  
Richard Denninger  
Anthony Galioto  
Russell Landon  
Marlissa Lindhart  
Richard Marcovitch  
Bernie Polster  
Dianne Parton  
Sergei Sawchuk  
Carla Venczel  
John Westen

### Polling Stations

**Advanced Poll: Tuesday March 14, 1989**  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

No. 14 Glendon - York Hall  
No. 15 York - Central Square

**Election Day: Wednesday March 15, 1989**  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

No. 1 Central Square  
No. 2 Administrative Studies  
No. 3 Fine Arts Building  
No. 4 Curtis Lecture Halls (2nd Fl)  
No. 5 Osgoode Hall Law School  
No. 6 Stong College  
No. 7 Bethune College  
No. 8 Founders College  
No. 9 McLaughlin College  
No. 10 Vanier College  
No. 11 Winters College  
No. 12 Atkinson College (until 8:30)  
No. 13 Glendon College - York Hall  
No. 16 Stedman Lecture Halls

All DRO's and Poll Clerks for the election are reminded to pick up a copy of the schedule and job procedures in the CYSF office.

### Vote Early!

The first few voters are eligible to receive CYSF t-shirts.