

Theatre 3 disappointing

Theatre 3's recent production of two Canadian one-acts was rather a disappointment. It was a disappointment not so much because one hoped for something better, but because one expected something better. One expected better direction by Mark Schoenberg and better plays from both Jim Osborne and Tom Whyte.

The evening was not without redeeming qualities. It is encouraging to note that so many talented people are still willing to labour lovingly on works of questionable merit. The future of Canadian theatre lies in the hands of such artists and their willingness to take a chance and place their talents behind the promise of a playwright instead of concentrating solely on works of proven merit, be it at the box office or in artistic terms.

Jim Osborne's play *Sylvia* was a bleak pursuit in quest of an answer to the question, who is Sylvia? The quest was not illuminating. Osborne's play is certainly one of minor ilk. It craves a resolution that is not to be found in the script. Diane (Judith Mabey) and John (Hutchinson Shandro) desperately try to piece together some kind of realistic relationship that will transcend the bounds of fantasy. John has already been burned once in an encounter with the mystical Sylvia who is a creature of Diane's making.

Sylvia is Diane's Frankenstein, a creature of costume and cosmetics; a cold lifeless lump of flesh in a most attractive package. Once John's fantasy has been stripped of its mask, Diane attempts to claim him for her own. The mastermind desires recognition but John's acquiescence comes reluctantly at first and then passionately in the play's climax.

Both Shandro and Mabey play their parts with admirable conviction, above and beyond the call of duty. They managed to breath life into some clumsy lines that lacked the ring of truth.

Mark Schoenberg's direction had its usual crispness but failed to give focus to the play's lack of precision, nor was he able to give the play the sting of truth it needs to elevate it above its manifest mediocrity.

Tom Whyte's *Dismissal Leading to Lustfulness* had at least a light touch that was charmingly unpretentious. Although its episodic structure was more suited to television than the stage, *Dismissal Leading to Lustfulness* maintained a comic perspective that its imperfections could not dim.

Whyte's play concerns one Edward Cosgrove who is unable to keep a job due to an overpowering reluctance to take any work seriously. Finding himself between jobs Cosgrove decides to pursue his favorite sport, drinking and succeeds in persuading one of his boarding house mates, a Miss Bryant to share his bottle. Miss Bryant is all too eager to accommodate him, the appeals of her flirtation machinations having worn all too thin to sustain her romantic appetites.

Cosgrove's placid itinerary is given a decided push when neighbour Gibbs hatches a surprise party for Cosgrove and Bryant. The upshot of it all is Cosgrove and Bryant depart for a felicitous rendezvous out of town. In short order Cosgrove finds himself in a similar liaison with Kathleen Gibbs after touching home base for the briefest of momentary pauses. He does, alas, strike out with the third woman of the house and is finally faced with the grim discomfiting business of seeking another job.

Jonathan Harrison proved to have just the right sense of the

inevitable absurd, and comic timing for Whyte's ruminations on the sedentary life. Jennifer Webber also had some fine moments although she never quite managed to overcome the slightly artificial nature of her character, Monica Bryant.

Wilf Rowe was uncomfortably wooden as the crafty and decidedly unprincipled Roger Gibbs and seemed a poor foil for Jean McIntyre as his more earthy spouse, Kathleen. Conrad Boyce overplayed his small hand as the zesty imbibing Vernon and tended to upstage the action where he should have faded into the wallpaper.

Ken Agrell-Smith's direction of *Dismissal Leading to Lustfulness* was plainly uninspired. He devoted his energies to moving the plays characters and let the actors account for themselves. Where his faith in his actors was well placed his work survived but otherwise the show had a tatty, undisciplined shape which could have been avoided by a little more diligence in matters of life. Mechanics are no substitute for life.

Settings and costumes for

both productions were designed by Karen Waidmann. Miss Waidmann did well enough by *Sylvia*, a feat which would seem to indicate that contemporary settings are her forte. She thrives well on off the rack costuming. Her designs for *Dismissal Leading to Lustfulness* were atrocious. The costumes and set were totally unintegrated. The costumes lacked definition and were poorly coordinated. The set was an eclectic mishmash of styles that smacked of both nineteenth century *Gunsmoke* saloon and early twentieth century English boarding house that did nothing for the play except confuse the action. She seemed to have thrown in the towel as far as the complexities of placing several staging areas on stage at the same time. Her work certainly didn't help her directors with their problems.

Hopefully in the future Theatre 3 will be able to lavish its attentions on more mature work from Mr. Osborne and Mr. Whyte. If so, then this exercise in production will handsomely repay their present efforts. At present, the best that can be said is that the work of all save Miss Waidmann shows promise.

Anarchy at CBC

Anarchy takes over CBC Radio for six weeks, but only Monday nights at 11:03 p.m. EST, as the subject of a new Ideas series, starting March 11.

Produced by Bernard Lucht and designed by writer W.H. (Bill) Rockett, the series explores the concept of anarchy and its raison d'être as a political philosophy. It was originally broadcast on CBC-FM.

The series opens with an introductory lecture by George Woodcock of the University of B.C., author of *Anarchism*, perhaps the most important book on the subject. Prof. Woodcock wrote and narrated the outstanding CBC-TV documentary series about the South Pacific, *In the South Seas*, which ran for nine weeks last fall. He also lectured in the Ideas series on the Philosophy of Pessimism, broadcast last year.

Other programs about anarchy broadcast by Ideas include *Anarchy Under the Empire*, March 18, a discussion of the dying Roman Empire under Justinian; and *Anarchists in the Commune*, March 25, which includes an examination of the conflict which developed between Marxists and Anarchists in the Paris commune of the 1800's.

April Fool's Day doesn't go by unnoticed. April 1, Ideas takes an unusual look at anti-rationalism, as revealed through Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*. Overtones of Dada, the absurdist art movement founded in 1916, are much in evidence throughout the program.

Entitled *Nietzsche*

Impressionist

cont'd from pg. 8

was rapidly accepted and had a great influence on younger artists, so that Canadians studying in Paris after the 1890's, learned Impressionist attitudes and techniques. Impressionism in Canada, organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario, explores Canada's contribution to the Impressionist style. The artists include A.Y. Jackson, Suzor-Cote, Gagnon and Morrice.

At the Edmonton Art Gallery.

NOTICE:

Registration booklets

Advance Registration for the 1974-75 Winter Session started at The University of Alberta on March 1, 1974, when forms were mailed to continuing students.

The initial response has been so great that there is a shortage of Registration Procedures Booklets which contain the 1974-75 Timetable. 7,500 copies of the booklet were printed by

March 1 with the balance to be available by March 15 as production was affected by a shortage of newsprint.

More booklets will be available on March 13 for those students who have not obtained copies. It is being suggested that in the meantime students attempt to share the available copies.

NOTICE

to

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

The Peace River Regional Planning Commission proposes to offer a bursary to a university graduate who is a resident of the Peace River region, or who has previously been a resident of the region and has taken at least part of his/her high school education in the region.

The purpose of the proposed bursary is to encourage such a person to undertake post-graduate training in community and regional planning through a recognized graduate training program. Such a course is normally of two years duration at certain Canadian Universities.

Should a successful applicant be chosen by the Commission it is intended that the applicant will receive the sum of \$1,000.00 as a bursary for the 1974-75 university year. The Commission reserves the right to decide not to award the bursary should it be felt that no applicant is properly qualified.

Written applications will be received up to and including April 30th, 1974, and further information in respect to the bursary may be obtained by writing to the undersigned.

James B. Gee
Director
Peace River Regional
Planning Commission
601 Nordic Court
Grande Prairie, Alberta

GSA ELECTION NOTICE

The Graduate Students' Association will be conducting elections for the following positions. All graduate students are eligible.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| A) G.S.A. Positions | G.S.A. delegate to General Faculties Council |
| President | Editor of G.S.A. Newsletter |
| Vice-President, External | G.S.A. delegate to Senate |
| Vice-President, Internal | Plus: Assistant Editor of G.S.A. Newsletter |
| Secretary | 4 members of G.S.A. Housing Committee |
| Treasurer | |

Elections at March G.S.A. Council Meeting, March 12, 1974 at 7:30 p.m. in Tory 14-6. Nominations from the floor or by calling X1175 (G.S.A. office).

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| B) General Faculties Council (G.F.C.) positions: | |
| one representative from the following areas: | |
| Agriculture | Engineering |
| Arts | Medicine & Nursing |
| Business Administration & Commerce | Pharmacy |
| Dentistry & Law | Physical Education |
| Education & Library Science | Science |

Candidate must hand in a completed nomination form (available now from G.S.A. office, Room 232 Assiniboia Hall) to that office by Friday, March 22, 1974 at 4:00 p.m. Election will be held on Friday April 5, 1974.

G.F.C. has approved an at-large representation scheme, rather than drawing the graduate students from 10 different areas. Therefore, an at-large candidate procedure will be followed.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| C) Graduate Faculty Council positions: | |
| In addition to the G.S.A. representatives, the following departments may elect one representative: | |
| Chemistry | Computing Science |
| Educational Psychology | English |
| Business Administration & Commerce | Geography |
| Educational Administration | Physics |
| Zoology | Electrical Engineering |

*For more information call the G.S.A. office (X1175 between 1:00 and 4:00 weekdays).