

ENTERTAINMENT

Chekhov revisited

Major production promises energized comedy

By JANICE BARNES AND AGNES KRUCHIO

Preparing for three Chekhov farces as the theatre department's major production is proving to be a challenging undertaking for the fourth year performance class, according to Fran Fagan, producer of the show, which will include *The Bear*, *The Jubilee* and *The Proposal*. Everthing will have to be freshly designed for it since the materials available will simply not be jazzy enough for farce, she says. Costumes, sets, props will

have to somehow materialize from their limited budget of \$3,000.

This Chekhov production will probably be the most important undertaking of the fourth year performance class. This will be the class' first professional effort, according to actor Neil Dainard, who is directing the production. Up until now these students have performed in group projects, but never in full-scale productions.

"The difficulty experienced by students in this production is natural especially when considering the highly disciplined nature of comedy," Dainard says. The biggest problem the students are encountering, he feels, is reaching and maintaining a high energy level in their acting. This idea of high energy, says Dainard, is "aimed at bringing out the hidden humour in the lines," as well as "acting as a force that would stimulate both the actors and the audience."

"The whole production, by its very nature, will have to be punched up," says producer Fagan. "The props are overstuffed, furniture is made to look a little bit too big and clumsy and everyone is a little bit too grandiose," she says.

They chose Chekhov, she says, because it is a challenge for everyone involved, from actor and director to technician. They also wanted to get away from large productions, she says, in order to offer all members of the per-

formance class the opportunity to get into a good role. While the characters were taken out of a certain era in Russian history, it is a tribute to the playwright's ability that they still offer both actor and audience the chance to delve into some aspects of human frailty.

The *Proposal*, for example, is about a young man's desire to marry a neighbour's daughter. While waiting to propose to her, he becomes quite unravelled, both physically and mentally, right in front of the audience's eyes. Then, even before he has an opportunity to spit out the purpose of his visit, he is deeply into an argument with the daughter over some piece of property both families lay a claim to. Of course, the proposal is totally forgotten, and our friend relapses into his former condition.

These plays will be performed tonight, tomorrow night and Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. in Burton, with a 4 p.m. Friday matinee. The tickets are free and available in the box office 11-2 p.m.



Gord Masten as Chubukov and Randy Campbell as Lomov in *The Proposal*.

By and of women: films shown to all

Amalie Rothschild, a noted US filmmaker, will be on campus after a number of her films will be shown between 9:30-12:30 a.m. in the screening room of the film department (basement, Central Square). She will speak to interested students in room 257 Atkinson College. Her films *Nana*, *Mom and Me*, *Woo Who? May Wilson?*, and *It Happens To Us* (a matter-of-fact film on women and abortion) will also be shown 2-4:30 p.m. in 282 Atkinson.

On Wednesday the NFB's Kathleen Shannon will hold a film screening and workshop discussion 2-6 p.m. in room 214 Stong. Her film *Goldwood* will be screened in CLH L at 6:30 p.m.





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