

by James Beddington

Tonight (Thursday, November 24) at the final show of the Halifax run of *Take* local dancer, Gwen Noah. Noah has been working out young girl and went to London, then she has toured extensively choreographers. Her musical acbagpipes and her dance style is The five solo works Motion, Passion The Church, 5657 North Street starting at 10 p.m. is Heart. The show consists of five recent solo works by

of Halifax for ten years. Gwen started dancing as a England at seventeen for classical training. Since and worked with a wide variety of musicians and companiment ranges from rock guitar to traditional quite.

in the show are John Wayne Is Dead, Trust, Brutal Under Cover and Take Heart. Brutal Motion, was cochoreographed by Gwen and her one time mentor and friend Julie West. Take Heart, is accompanied by a live bagpipe player. John Wayne Is Dead is a piece inspired by

Gwen's

brother. Trust is the calm piece in the evening. Passion Under Cover is a passionate piece composed by Gordin Laurin. The music for the pieces is all composed specifically for them. Gwen Noah's dance style varies from piece to piece, from chaotic rough movement to more classical interpretations.

I encourage everyone to come out and see the show. It is very accessible and extremely interesting. The show is \$10 at the door or at Halifax Dance. Watch for a an arts feature on Gwen Noah next week with a review of the show.

Chestnut Tree Theatre

by Suzanne DeVenne

Talk about a talented bunch! And they developed through our very own King's Theatre Society (KTS).

The Chestnut Tree Theatre Cabaret consists of eleven entrepreneurial artists (the majority of whom are King's students or graduates) who have put together a very impressive production.

The majority of the material was comedy with a spattering of musical delights. Apart from their own adaptations of a couple of classical pieces, there were a couple of very original works.

Considering the time restraints and scheduling problems that invariably follow a troupe of this size, there were few stumbles and only a couple offorgotten lines. However, had they not been pointed out to me after the performance, I would not have been the wiser.

With Chestnut Tree being a nonprofit organization, the crew had little to work with in the line of props (some of which were on loan from Dalhousie's Theatre Department). Having spent ten years in Toronto, I am accustomed to seeing productions which expend much time and energy on the visual impression the production will leave. Chestnut Tree appears to save their energy for their audience. The strength and magnitude of the talent present made me question the purpose of all the glitz and glamour of the big-city stage production.

Jenn Smith, who writes, directs, acts, a-a-and sings in this two-hour, five-skit entertainment-fest, was the recipient of the 1993 English Department's Top Student Award.

With the assistance of her fellow King's classmate, John Cleland, and the production and directing expertise of Rob Plowman, she managed to keep the audience coming back. Even though there were breaks between skits, I don't think this multitalented twenty-two year-old lost a single fan.

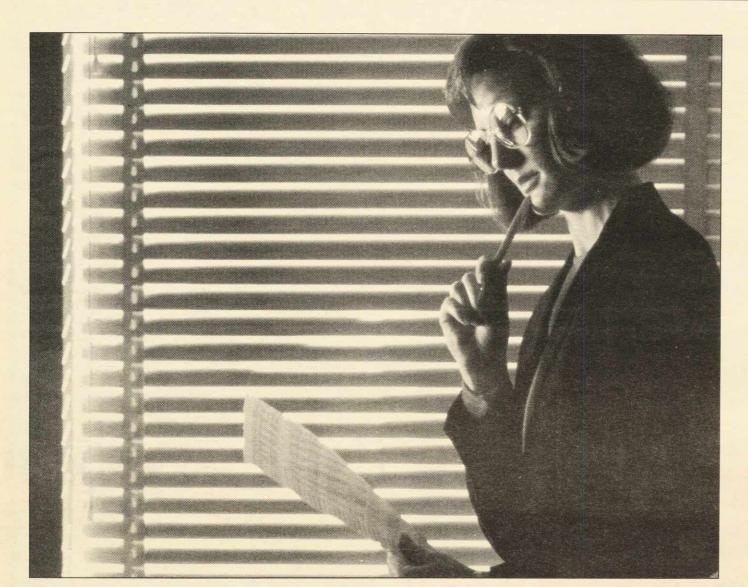
Jenn wrote the final skit, which offered up some pretty funny moments. Not only did I learn a new children's chicken song, I learned a couple of new uses for poultry. Chicken will never be the same again!

Not to take away for a moment from the broad range of talents of Daragh Russell, whose incredibly powerful voice stole the show. Having no formal voice training, her performance a capella with Jenn Smith of, "The Union from St. John's," left me amazed at her natural range and strength. Daragh not only sang this ballad, she portrayed a serene Death, a very hostile Russian man, and a happy housewife (where she sings again).

Natalie Meisner put a new twist on an old favourite, *Snow White*. She not only wrote this original work, she performed it solo. The story continues this week with her adaptation of *Wonder Woman*.

Some of you will remember the Chestnut Tree Theatre Cabaret from the Atlantic Fringe Festival this past summer. For those of you who have not seen this group, catch the show.

They perform for the next three weeks in the Khyber Building at 1588



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