

THEATRE NEW BRUNSWICK BACK FOR ANOTHER YEAR

by Matthew Roherty
Brunswickan Entertainment

Steel Magnolias, a tawdry comedy about a group of women in a small town Louisiana beauty salon by Robert Harding, will kick off TNB's 28th season tonight at the Playhouse. The play stars Sarah Evans, Denise Fergusson, Jenny Munday, Irene Pauzer, Linda Prystawski and Lenor Zann as six women who alternatively face life's triumphs and tragedies while supporting each other throughout.

"If the walls of beauty parlors could talk, they would produce a script like *Steel Magnolias*" says Walter Learning, TNB's executive producer of *Steel Magnolias*, the first of five offerings this year. Walker Learning's is clearly excited about the new season, "I can barely wait to get this season rolling. All the ingredients for a great theatrical feast are there - plays, actors, directors and designers... all we need is the audience." Having had the opportunity to work for TNB, I've seen many of their productions and can only say the quality of acting and level of entertainment are both high and that TNB is very fortunate to have such a troupe.

From November 25th through December 18th, TNB will present *A Gift to Last*, a heartwarming Christmas story written by Alden

Nowland and Walter Learning portrays three generations of a family brought together by a special gift, a gift to last. It features David Hughes, Janet Monid, David Nairn, Linda Prystawski and Jank Stinson as the

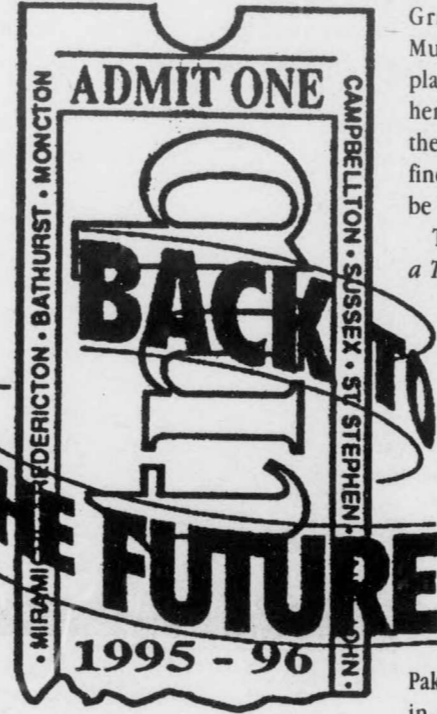
old age home is a must-see. It will be at the Playhouse January 19 through 27th. The two seniors rival each other in every way, and play gin to win.

Have you ever wanted to be in a band? Get the next best thing in *Rock and Roll*, a musical, written by John Gray about some boys from Mushaboom, Nova Scotia (a real place) who made it happen. It will be here between the 8th and 18th. Will they succeed? I suggest you go and find out. You can be guaranteed I'll be in attendance.

The season wraps up with *Lend me a Tenor*, an uproariously funny play by Ken Ludwig about a famous Italian tenor who has come to sing with the local opera company. Mistaken identity, secret seduction, an ego as big as an opera house, and general mayhem will keep you in stitches.

TNB is now offering new season packages and new performances. With the "Three Play Pack" you can choose any three of the five plays; with "Flexi-Pak" you can choose any performance in any location. TNB also offers a student-rate. New this year are matinee performances at some locations, including Fredericton.

Tickets for all productions are available at the Playhouse Box Office on Queen Street, or phone (506) 458-8399.



Sturgess family.

The Gin Game, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by D.L. Coburn, starring John Gregson and David Hughes as two senior citizens who play cards and discuss life on the porch of an

LES GRAND BALLETS CANADIENS

by KM
Brunswickan Entertainment

Les Grand Ballets Canadiens revealed its immense breadth in a panoramic program of classical ballet and modern dance in a stunning performance on Monday night. The four part program, each work differing in style and character, began with Kevin O'Day's

new piece *Manen's Black Cake*. In this modern dance piece, the dancers attempt to assert their power with an emotional emptiness reminiscent of adolescence, in the classical battle between the sexes. The deliberately androgynous costumes worn by all dancers gave a more youthful quality to the boy-girl jousting.

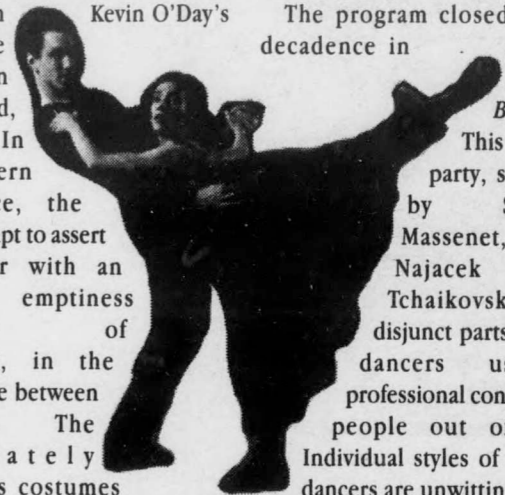
In startling contrast, the stage is transformed into classical ballet by two dancers, Yvonne Cutaran and Hans Hilsson, immersed in the emotion of Tchaikovsky's *Pas De Deux*. The deeply expressive performance of soaring leaps, and

close and trusting partnering was only slightly marred by a small mishap near the end of the performance. *The Moor's Pavane*, not altogether a classical ballet, was an incredibly powerful rendition of Shakespeare's Othello, where the passion of love gives way to murderous madness with disturbing similarities to contemporary life.

The program closed with racy decadence in Han van

commissioned *Manen's Black Cake*. This scene was a party, set to music by Stravinsky, Massenet, Mascagni, Najacek and Tchaikovsky in five disjunct parts, where the dancers use their professional control to show people out of control.

Individual styles of the various dancers are unwittingly exposed with impeccable style in a delightful array of personalities. Dancing throughout the evening was of the highest quality from the youthful exuberance of *Principia*, to the more passionate *Pas De Deux* and worldly seriousness of *The Moor's Pavane*, through to the sardonic humour of *Black Cake* - a fine tribute to the Walter Baker Memorial Concert.



Hey Kids!!!



Remember that there is an election today for the positions of News Editor and Entertainment Editor.

If you have contributed to three or more issues this year then you are considered as being staff and you can vote.

Be at the staff meeting at 12.30 today (October 6th) and vote for your favourite. And look out for the swimsuit competition!!!

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