

N.B. Drama Festival continues

On November 16 at 8:00 p.m. the curtain goes up on the third entry in the 1979 New Brunswick Drama Festival being held in the Centre Sainte-Anne. The production is a musical comedy *The Fantasticks* by Mount Allison's Windsor Players.

The Fantasticks is the longest running musical ever, still playing Off-Broadway after more than twenty years. The story itself is timeless and it is told for us by a narrator, El Gallo. It concerns a girl, Luisa, and a boy, Matt, who fall in love with the active encouragement of their fathers who think the best way to bring about a match is to tell the children they don't approve of it. This is, in fact, the theme of one of their comic songs - "To Manipulate Children You Merely Say No" - and manipulate it they do, with the aid of El Gallo, the narrator, who doubles as the villain of the piece, and a down-and-out old actor, Henry, with his equally seedy companion, Mortimer. But the course of true love, as everyone knows, is never smooth; and the boy and girl have to suffer some of the harder lessons of life before they are finally mature enough to appreciate what they have.

The musical will be performed by Windsor Theatre from Mount Allison University, and features some of the top actors and singers from the Music Department. Last year's production of *The Caretaker* was taken by Windsor Theatre to the Atlantic Drama Festival in Newfoundland where it successfully represented the province of New Brunswick and came away with top honors. All major productions in English at Windsor Theatre are directed by Arthur Morrison, professor of English at the University and director of Drama; and the design for "The Caretaker" last year and for *The Fantasticks* this year has been by Ian Gaskell, lecturer in Drama at the university and technical and administrative director of Windsor Theatre. Arthur Motyer was formerly director of Drama at Bishops University now the home of Festival Lennoxville, and Ian Gaskell from the Graduate Center for Drama in Toronto is a professional lighting designer with experience at Stratford and Charlottetown.

Erik Oland who plays the part of El Gallo is a voice major at Mt. A. and was a scholarship student this last summer at the Banff School of Fine Arts. Sharon Crowther, as Luisa, has also had much experience in musicals and is another voice major. Jamie Crooks, as the young man, Matt, is yet another music student at the University with experience in musicals. The fathers are played by Tim Morgan and Chris Martin, again experienced players in

musical comedy; and the two actors are played by Tim Blagrove and Chris Boughner. The cast is completed with Will Montague and the Mute, the person who sets the stage and provides all the props as the action unfolds; and by the two musicians Alasdair MacLean at the piano and Tony Strangis on percussion. Their roles are immensely demanding for they are on stage throughout providing the total musical

accompaniment. They, like other is the cast, are also students in the music program: Alasdair MacLean has had wide experience as a professional musician and Tony Strangis has had a great deal of experience with musicals in Moncton.

It is no wonder that this show has run for twenty years Off-Broadway. It has in it something for everybody and the music is widely appealing, the

best known song being "Try to Remember the Kind of September." Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and senior citizens and \$10.00 for a Festival Pass. Tickets are on sale at the SUB Information Desk on the UNB campus, Mazzuca's on York Street, Radioland in the Regent Mall, and *Music World* in the Fredericton Mall. Tickets are also available at the door on the evening of the performance.

Riverview Cinema performs Nov. 17

As the title implies "Luv" is an attitude...a feeling that North American society's enshrinement of the personal relationship is ridiculous.

Murray Schisgal portrays the absurd aspects of the love and marriage syndrome. Only three characters appear on stage - although there are also a dog, and another woman - thus confronting us with the eternal triangle, but this is a triangle with a difference. We know from the beginning that they will survive their ordeal, yet they insist on putting themselves through what has become normal for a good segment of American society. A couple has a relationship which they find lacking, and so they convince themselves that they must separate and try a new partner, only to discover that the first wasn't so bad after all. All of this is done with the utmost scheming and chutzpah...the 'American way...it's all not just larger than life, but enormous, overblown, totally exaggerated, larger than death.

This last is borne out by the antics of the characters as they try to bring meaning to a life that was dictated by society that believes definitely in its own continuity but without knowing why.

And at the end of the play, the characters are no better off than when they began. We are aware that these people, and all of those who have the same problems, will continue to search all of their lives and probably find nothing. In that sense, it is a very sad play, couched in Chaplinesque comedy. They are all 'little tramps'...and we laugh at them and their

stupidities, all the time realizing that we are they, and they, we...

Cast in order of appearance: Howard Baker - Harry Berlin

Howard has played Alan Baker in a Riverview Little Theatre play by Neil Simon "Come Blow Your Horn" in the spring of 1979. He has performed in a variety of production: "The Sandbox", "The Odd Couple", "The Wizard of Oz" to name a few. Howard has been stage manager and lighting operator for other performances. He has founded and formed his own "Theatre Lab" in Moncton as the artistic director.

Michael Mikical - Milt Manville
Mike was born in Ontario and is now employed with ATV as a commercial photographer and has acted in a number of television commercials produced at ATV. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts degree and Mike's experience leads back to high school in "Bye Bye Birdie". Michael has a vast collection of motion picture memorabilia (still, posters etc.) and has appeared on talk shows to discuss these interests.

Jeannie Coholan Noel - Ellen Manville

This is Jeannie's first appearance with Riverview Little Theatre and we are very pleased. Her experience consists of production such as "Annie Get Your Gun", "Finigans Rainbow", "Prisoner of Second Avenue", "The Tunnel of Love", "Gingerbread Lady" and several others. Jeannie has also been involved with another adult theatre group. She has choreographed pageants and in 1975 was with the Chocolate Cove Players in St. Andrews for Summer Stock.

In October 1977, seven enthusiasts, sharing a common interest in amateur theatre, assembled together resulting in the formation of Riverview Little Theatre. The group members met regularly on Monday nights and participated in workshops with the goal in mind of presenting the community with a play; hopefully activating their interest in theatre or even maybe, introducing many to live theatre, and to gain the community's support through membership and audience attendance.

Via means of radio and press releases, Riverview Little Theatre soon grew from seven to twenty active members. To say the least, the lack of experience did not deter the group, on the contrary, the enthusiasm triumphed and our premier production of "Daddy Dear Daddy" by Norman Barasch & Carroll Moore was scheduled for March 1977.

The group's aim to produce as high a quality of theatre as possible, given limited resources, was achieved. The initial production went smoothly being enthusiastically received by the public, the play was well attended and the overall feedback was the very positive reviews from the press and the general public.

Our objective to involve and excite the community in live

theatre through further productions of "6 RMS RIV VU" by Bob Randall, November 1978, and "Come Blow Your Horn" by Neil Simon, April 1979, was well attained. Along with Neil Simon's production, we offered our public a *Dinner Theatre* package with a sit down dinner for 100 people followed by the play. Needless to say, the tickets were sold out within the week and at this time are planning another *Dinner Theatre* April 1980. Interested people wanting to become involved with amateur theatre have since joined, and there have been many inquiries. Therefore, our membership has increased and the outlook for the future is a positive one. The fact that over twenty people who worked as a team for extremely long hours during six weeks of rehearsals could effectively pull their resources and efforts together, alone make our plays successful.

To offset our costs, the group does many fund raising projects; bring & buy sale, variety of raffles, selling of supper club tickets, to name a few.

At the request of Radio Station CFQM in Moncton, Riverview Little Theatre produces "Story Corner", a children's program, every Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Folk Collective

The Folk Collective announces its third Coffeehouse of the season, to be held tomorrow evening, Saturday, November 17, 8:30 at Memorial Hall. Featured will be members of the Canadian Folk Music Society. Probably the most formidable host of traditional singers and musicians to ever grace Fredericton or this university will be taking the stage. For members of the Folk Collective (our list now has slightly over eighty), admission is free. For non-members, the price is \$2.00.

The second Newsletter of the year has been mailed to all members to inform them of the activities of the Annual Conference of the Canada Folk Music Society, also taking place this weekend (in conjunction with the Coffeehouse). Friends of the Collective are also reminded of the 4th Coffeehouse, to take place on November 30. Finally, the invitation is renewed to any interested acoustic musicians or singers on campus or in town to attend our Song Circle on Thursday evenings each week, beginning 9:00 in the Woodshed.

(For further information on the Folk Collective, feel free to call Andrew Bartlett.)



NB Drama Festival presents Mount Allison's Windsor Players in the *Fantasticks* Friday, Nov. 16 at 8:00, at the Centre Sainte-Anne