

New theatre group on campus

By MALCOLM SCULLY

An independent theatre group called the Company, under the direction of John Purdy and Jim Wright is trying to create a number of theatrical events on campus. But the Company also does much work in creating theatrical experiences for children, preferably children who do not have the opportunity to see live theatre. The children are involved in the presentations by making costumes and scenery from paper and by playing games which develop their acting skills. At present the Company is performing "Now We are Six", a poem by A.A. Milne which will be presented on campus during the second week of December in their theatre at 002 Winter's College.



The Company in action.

On campus the members of the Company work nine hours per week developing their skills and each Thursday a member must present a production at which the public is invited to not only attend but to participate. Plans have been made to present a comedy by Aristophanes and an original drama on the martyrdom of Father

BreBoef, in which action, rather than words, is emphasized. The Company is also in the process of making a film.

Lately the Company has, according to John Purdy, "Been laboring under a bad reputation. A lot of people feel that there is no theatre for them although the York Masquers offer an alternative." The Company feels that there is more to theatre than the traditional plays and might be said to be an ex-

perimental group in which the members decide the form as well as the directors. The group has also been called a clique and closed group although open auditions have been held. Of this John Purdy said, "I hope we aren't so readily judged and I wish more people were tolerant. I wish more people would come and participate in theatre and have some fun, it doesn't cost anything but time. We want to create an excitement and bring back the original festivity of theatre."

Moliere play full of laughs at Burton

By JULIE BAYLISS

"Le Treteau de Paris" received a standing ovation at the Burton Auditorium after their performance of Moliere's farce.

The play does not achieve its

humour by verbal subtleties, but by broad ridicule of human vanity. We laugh at M. Jourdain's vulgarity and stupidity, and at the rather underhand ways in which his hangers-on take advantage of him. All comes right in the end by means of a

ridiculous trick. The company played for laughs right through, with the slapstick situations milked for every bit of humour. The acting was in high farcical style, helped by a basic set with the maximum number of doors. Has anyone ever written a really funny play to be performed on a set with no more than one entrance? The result was high and hilarious comedy. Laughter was never tempered with sympathy for M. Jourdain, nor protest at the rather mean tricks played on him. Roland Bertin played him magnificently, making his just stupid enough for his behaviour to be believable, and odious enough never to win our sympathy.

A touring company, likely to be faced with many sorts of house to play in can probably not carry around with it anything every elaborate in the way of sets and costumes. Those used on Tuesday were attractive and elaborate, but it would have been fun to see a full scale show, with gorgeous costumes, lots of musicians and dancers, and a ballet between each of the acts. One was only glad for the company's sake that that nasty little dais in the middle of the Burton stage seems to have been erased.

Shawn Phillips - unique

By STEVE GELLER

After listening to Shawn Phillips' third album, Collaboration, it is quickly becoming clearer that this artist is, and for that matter always has been, a unique phenomenon. His music is different and perfectly calculated from every possible aspect of its creation.

Shawn Phillips' music is not easy to identify with. Each song or each part of a song focuses on something but the subject of the song remains only a focal point for a much wider range of elements in the music. The effect of the music is diffuse, less clearly defined, and it tends not to concentrate its effects on any one aspect of your personality. Rather, Phillips, through his music manages to subtly infuse all your senses with continually flowing and changing images. Collaboration seems to crystalize around one basic thought and spread itself outwards both naturally and gradually.

Collaboration reflects Phillips' interests in the effect of sound when it is pushed to the limits of human hearing — either very low or very high. The album is also very well produced but not over-produced as studio techniques have been used as a means to an end rather than as an end in themselves.

The most striking feature of Collaboration is its natural, unstructured structure. The lyrics complement the music and the feeling that the music tries to reveal. At the same time the mood complements the choice of phrases and verbal implications. The songs never follow a verse-chorus pattern. The album was released as a series of longer tracks.

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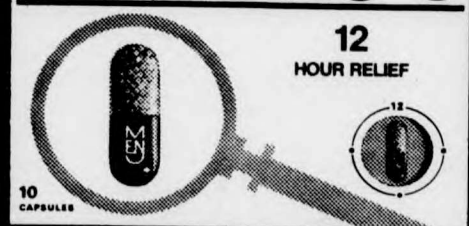
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