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## silent schooling



by Ian McMullen

**T**he Canadian Mime Distillery, a new school dedicated to the study of mime, opens on October 30, 1989. The school will be unique in all of North America.

World renowned mime teacher Tony Montanaro is the honorary chairman and inspiration for the school, and will be giving master classes as a guest instructor. Jay Miller of San Diego's Jay Miller Mime Theatre will also lend guidance and support as a guest instructor.

One of the main goals of the school is to raise the standard of mime performance in Canada and to develop individual performers. It will be taking on 20 students who will study all facets of mime over a two year period. The programme prepares the student not only for mime performance, but also provides them with a broad acting base that includes voice training, writing, choreography and directing.

In the first year students will study body movement and physical discipline, and will be introduced to the various styles of mime with focus on the student's individual creativity. The school incorporates other mediums including dance, tai chi chuan, stage fighting, juggling and painting. The second year will refine and develop technique, and each student will have the opportunity to direct a production to be performed in a public forum.

Principle instructor Stephen La Frenie, director of Toronto's Graphic Mime theatre, feels that there

is a new and exciting outlook for mime in Canada and cites the International Mime Festival in Winnipeg as an example.

La Frenie developed an interest in mime 12 years ago while studying acting and playwriting. He discovered that mime provided him with a better mode of expression than the spoken word. La Frenie has studied in Paris as well as in Toronto with Mime School Unlimited. He has also been running workshops for high school students for the past 10 years and has had a very positive response. La Frenie has moved away from the formal image of the mime in white makeup and tights to a more casual and open format where students can feel free to explore areas outside a rigid framework.

The more open format which will stress the development and differences amongst actors was one of the ideas central to the forming of the new school. Students will be encouraged to evolve their own style. Improvisations and sketches based on paintings and adaptations from literature will be used to get people to draw from themselves. The emphasis of the school will be on character study rather than the body.

The Canadian Mime Distillery won't be taking students full time until next year, but is offering free sessions Tuesday evenings to people who are interested in mime. There is also a workshop in Mask being run in November. People interested in applying for next year as full time students can expect a very physically intensive programme. Anyone interested in the school should call 533-8776.

## artscalendar

by Kristy Gordon

Although things seem really quiet on campus this week, there are some events that you won't want to miss.

The display in the **Samuel J. Zacks Gallery** looks really interesting. **A Collection of Contemporary Art from Ecuador** will be on display until Nov. 14. This exhibition, which features 19 Ecuadorian artists, is open weekdays from 12-5pm.

This is your last chance to catch the performance of *The Country Wife* in the **Samuel Beckett Theatre** at Stong College. The show is running until Oct. 27. Performances start at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$3 at the door.

York's English dept. presents **Penn Kemp** reading her own poetry. She is the author of *Bearing Down*, *Binding Time*, *Animus* and *Throo*. Kemp will be reading on Oct. 31 at noon in 201 Stong (Sylvester's).

Dance historian **Dr. Millicent Hodson** from the **University of**

**Surrey** and art historian **Dr. Kenneth Archer** from **London, England** will be giving a joint lecture on **Sculptured Light and Motion: The Theatre of Duncan and Craig**. The lecture, on Oct. 31 will be held in Curtis Lecture Hall M from 12:15-1:45 pm. Hodson and Archer, who reconstructed Nijinsky's *Le Sacre du printemps* for the Joffrey Ballet in 1987, will lead a seminar on **Reconstructing 'Le Sacre du Printemps: Research and Methodology'** in the Purple Lounge on the 2nd floor of the Fine Arts Building on Oct. 31 from 4-5:15 pm.

On Oct. 31 at 4pm in the Vanier Senior Common Room **Cynthia Sharpe** and **Mike Kone** will be the highlighted readers in the **Writers Read Series**. Refreshments will be available.

If you want 16,000 pairs of eyes reading about your event, please bring your listing to the EXCAL office and drop it into the big manilla envelope on the arts board.