

# Dalhousie students take centre stage

#### **BY JOHN CULLEN**

This year's Shakespeare by the Sea cast could very well be a cheerleading squad for the Dalhousie Theatre Department. The popular summer acting company, performing the Bard's finest in the outdoor setting of Point Pleasant Park, contains 14 out of 18 cast members who attend, or have graduated from Dalhousie.

Although Patrick Christopher, Artistic Director and founding member of the company, is also the head of the department at acting Dalhousie, these members were no shoe-ins. The criteria involves much more than just being a Dalhousie student.

"[You need] commitment, devotion, and a willingness to work. But [it is] more than that; it's willing to do whatever you have to do to keep the company surviving." said David Cox (Donblain, First

from Ryerson Theatre school ated an original adaptation. in Toronto. "We have to do all The production can only be the promotional stuff our- described as highly ambiselves, we are a 'Yes' com- tious; with the role of the pany."

profit organization that relies on it's audience for funding.

some corporate funding, some private donors, but most [revenue] comes from our audience and the site specific

topher.

not cheap, but the perfor- formance and offers an eerie mance is full of enough thrills setting for the indoor scenes to make the price justifiable. of the play. Where the perfor-Christopher has taken some mance decidedly wins the au-

Witch), a third year student liberties with the text and cre-Three Witches completely The company is a not-for- over-hauled, and a supremely dominant

> Lady MacBeth (Irene Poole) who adds just the right amount of erotic flair to her role. The audience, limited to a paltry 100, wanders through Point Pleasant Park while the ac-

performance, The Martello tion takes place around them. Tower MacBeth." said Chris- The Martello Tower, a 1600's fortress in the middle of the At \$25 a ticket, MacBeth is park, is the base for the perBrilliantly staged against a the battery. The change afbackdrop of trees, ocean and fected audience turn-out and sky, MacBeth (one of cast morale. But Jody Stevens Shakespeare's moodiest (Second Witch, Doctor) a plays) receives the treatment fourth year Theatre major at it deserves. Some of the Dalhousie, prefers to look at scenes are down right creepy it from another perspective. - especially those involving the witches and MacBeth's think everybody in this comvisions.

it's inception in 1994. The the story." heat wave which left Haligonians without rain for a month also closed Point Pleasant Park. Performances of Romeo and Juliet and As You Like It were played in the

dience though, is outside. lower parking lot, instead of

"It's amazing, because I pany is so creative that we The performance is ex- blocked [ed. note: blocking is tremely physical; for actors theatre talk for rehearsing the and audience alike. It is a movements of the actors] the three and a half hour event whole change in two hours. I which requires the audience mean, yes, we were in the to move swiftly up and down parking lot, and yeah we hills in the dark. The actors could hear the freight train, must do the same even faster, but it came down to your and still remain in character. scene partner. We had to tell It is quite a marvel how the same story, but in a difsmoothly the production runs. ferent atmosphere [in the Shakespeare by the Sea has parking lot]. We relied on eye not had the easiest ride since contact and our partners to tell

> For more information on tickets and performances, call Shakespeare by the Sea at 422-0295. The Martello Tower MacBeth plays until Sept. 21.

## The First Lesson

#### **BY NATALIE MACLELLAN**

Eugene Ionesco's The Lesson kicks off the 1997-98 Dalhousie theatre season this week. It is the first Independent Student Production of the school year, having been put together over the summer months in order to be ready before classes resumed.

dramatic, hysterical, and profound. The Lesson-follows suit nicely.

The story revolves around a pupil, played by Jocelyn Murphy, who visits the home

**"WE ARE CREATING** OUR OWN LITTLE WORLD FOR US TO ENJOY."

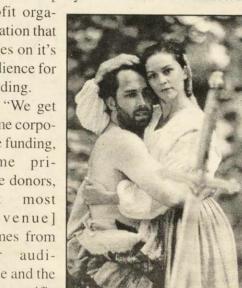
"[We prepared during the of her professor, played by

"What we are doing here," said cast member Greg Richardson, "is creating for ourselves. We're not concerned necessarily with the audience. We're doing it because we love to do it. We're creating our own world that we can enjoy."

"The evolution of the play itself - everyone has been a part of it, and it's very ... therapeutic." added Morgan

If The Lesson has any





summer] so our lesson would Morgan, for a lesson. The lesbe first," said director Shahin Miss Julie last spring.

ible hand," said cast member you realize that he's wanted it like this all along."

Eugene Ionesco wrote plays which are all at once relied upon to set the mood.

son begins well, but surpris-Sayadi, a third year Theatre ing elements of each person-Student. This is the second ality soon bring a change in ISP for Sayadi, who directed the atmosphere. Also present in the house is the maid, "He directs with an invis- played by Ben Smith. The three characters become en-Neal Morgan. "You feel like gaged in a constant and often you're doing it yourself, then ridiculous struggle for power, leaving a viewer both con-

#### fused and enchanted.

The set is minimal, but more than twenty plays and more than adequate. A live DJ was one of the most well is present on stage at all times, known writers of absurdist and the music, along with intheatre. He was famous for teresting plays on voices, is

faults, they are in the dialogue. We'll be hearing the droning voices of our professors soon enough, so do we want to hear them in a theatre as well?

There is, however, an ironic hilarity in listening to the professor's attempt to drill his pupil with ludicrously abstract ideas that"[can] only [be perceived] after very long study, with a great deal of trouble and after the broadest experience ... " Who hasn't thought that during an early morning class?

### Non-drinking

continued from page 14.. manent menu. And, get ready for this, with the presentation of this article you can get a free dessert with any entree ordered!

I guess the message in all of this is that no one should feel compelled to drink. Mind you, most of these establishments either are, or located next to, places that serve alcohol. Admittedly the pressure is everywhere. But if you're a health-minded person who wishes to partake in other activities, feel free. Hey, it's university! Have some fun for once!

Write for the Gazette, it's good for you! (not really in any homeopathic way) It builds character, and all those things your parents want you to have.