

Edwards charms

by donalee moulton

The Student union's latest promotion has been singer/musician Johnathan Edwards, an American who made it big with the release of "Sunshine".

Edwards, now a resident of Nova Scotia, has an easy sincere performance. Resembling an old Ian and Sylvia set-up, Edwards sings with his wife and a local CBC backup band. On stage he is ever the comedian, the actor, the adlibber, and this is carried over into his music.

Singing alone Edwards is the epitome of potential, nothing great, but nothing blase. It is when he performs amidst the drums, electric piano, and other assortment of instruments and people that he makes his potential a reality. Many of his songs are country, some folk, and others country-folk. There is no lack of variety.

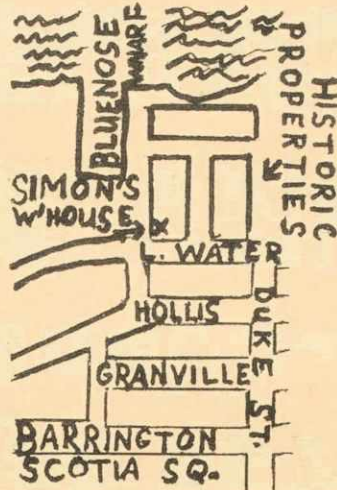
Besides the jokes that pass between himself and the audience and the love-looks that pass between himself and his wife is a choice of songs, styles, and music. Edwards is an ace musician but when this is expanded to include vocals he moves down on the scale.

What Edwards is extremely good at is masking these deficiencies. His rapport with the audience is just that and this makes his show better than good. At all times the audience is interested and entertained. Edwards has the ability to involve them not only in his music but in the whole show. Part of this is the variety of songs played. Unlike the CBC backup Edwards plays a wide range of types and styles of music. There is no time for boredom; what the show, as a musical performance lacks, Edwards makes up for in his repartee with the audience.

One of the more interesting spots of the evening was the song his wife sang and wrote, "I Just Got Back From Nova Scotia". However this was the only song she was featured in and leaves one unable to evaluate her talent. Edwards has had a long and interesting musical career, much of his "on the job training" he received at military school. From there it was on to gospel, bluegrass, and electrical versions of such artists as Dylans and the Beatles.

Musically Edwards lacks inspiration, competence he has, shine he hasn't, but as a performer he displays a talent that surpasses mere talent and makes him shine, his show shine, and the audience enjoy.

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