

# The temporary insanity of student theatre

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

"Miss Julie's crazy again tonight — absolutely crazy," began a Sunday morning run-through of the August Strindberg classic, *Miss Julie*. Shahin Sayadi, a second year theatre student and amateur director, had invited me to attend this rehearsal of the independent student production of *Miss Julie*.

Having enjoyed reading the play, I was eager to see *Miss Julie* performed. And so I pulled myself out of a warm bed on a Sunday morning, stumbled over to the Arts Centre and down a long flight of stairs to Studio 1 (a.k.a. the David Mack Murray Studio).

Arriving at 10 a.m., I was not surprised to see that things were a bit behind schedule and I was going to have to wait around a bit. I declined an invitation to join the actors in their warm-up games, opting instead to dry some dishes for the stage manager, Gwen.

The set had to be arranged to the director's taste before things could get underway. "Could somebody move that table?" Sayadi asked in between apologetic smiles in my direction.

"I'm really sorry about this — no, turn it around...now angle it a bit — not that much! Yes, perfect."

While Sayadi gave directions to Eleanor in the sound room, someone named Maria fussed around with costumes, muttering about slips, stockings, and shawls that were the wrong colour. Sayadi kept



apologizing about the wait, but I was enjoying watching the creative process.

By 12 p.m., everybody was in place and ready to start. "Go to the opening music, Eleanor," Sayadi ordered. And so it began...

*Miss Julie* takes place on Mid-

summer Eve when the Count, Julie's father, is away. Julie joins her servants in their celebration and gets herself into a messy situation. The play focuses on her relationships with Kirsten and Jean — a love triangle spanning traditional class barriers, with tragic consequences.

Andre Davey, a 1996 Dal theatre graduate, plays the part of Jean, while Kirsten is played by second year acting student Holly Casey. Julie is played by Beth VanGorder, a first year acting student.

"*Miss Julie* is not just about the three people," says Sayadi. "It is about changing society. We must take responsibility if we want to change."

I curled up on the risers of Studio 1 for the next two hours and watched as the characters came alive in ways I never would have imagined. The only interruptions were an occasional order from Sayadi, and a slight pause when Holly (Kirsten) fell asleep between scenes.

"What's Julie going to do?" I found myself wondering, temporarily forgetting that I'd read the play.

"It's horrible, but there's no other way to end it...go!" says Jean. And she does. They leave the stage and the lights go down.

I gathered my thoughts and tried to process everything I'd just seen. Sayadi was going to want to hear my interpretations of the performance — I had to make sure I had a few ideas to share with him.

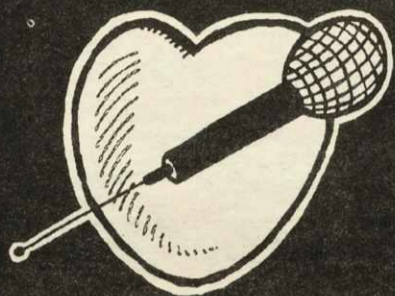
"I have a vision," he says. "I believe we have to experiment to see if we can get our message across."

As I left Sayadi was gathering his cast and crew around him for a few final notes. He has a week left to perfect his message.

*Miss Julie* runs from March 18th-22nd at 8 p.m. in the David Mack Murray Studio.

**THANK YOU**  
you and me and a  
**microphone**

**FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S FUNDING DRIVE SUCH A SUCCESS**



'CUZ OF YOU WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE  
**\$ 5 2 , 1 1 5**  
**W O O ! W O O !**

# Dal Arts Society

## Spring Elections

Positions available:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Chair
- Secretary
- DSU Arts Reps (2)
- Arts Rep for DSS
- Member at large

Nominations are open from 4 p.m., March 10 until 4 p.m., March 24, 1997. Elections will be held March 26, at 5 p.m., in Council Chambers in the SUB. All students registered in Arts or Social Science program are eligible to vote. Nomination forms are available at the SUB info desk and in room 314 (DAS/DSS office of the SUB). For more information, please contact the ERO, Tony Caldwell at 494-1313.

**BIRDLAND CABARET**

**Thursday March 13th**  
**VANCOUVER'S ZOLTIE CRACKER + SLAK & GREYHOUND TRAGEDY \$4**

**Friday March 14th - RHEOSTATICS POSTPONED**  
**PLUMTREE + THE EUPHONIC + SPEEDO AND NORMAN \$4**

**Saturday March 15th**  
**ST. PATRICKS DAY CEILIDH SLAINTE MHATH + KILT \$5**

**Thursday March 20th**  
**SMILEY + CHRIS COLEPAUGH & THE COSMIC CREW \$4**

**Friday March 21st**  
**KILLJOYS + MIR & GUESTS \$8**

**Saturday March 22nd BENEFIT FOR THE DALHOUSIE CO-OPERATIVE SCHOOL**  
**AN EVENING OF LAUGHS AND MUSIC**  
MARY WALSH, JEST IN TIME AND FRIENDS 8-12PM \$12 ADVANCE \$15 AT DOOR \$3 AT 12AM  
JOHNNY FAVOURITE & THE SWING KINGS 12-2AM

**Monday March 24th**  
**THE ACADEMY AWARDS LOW BUDGET GALA**  
SEE THE AWARDS ON THE BIG SCREEN AND THEN DANCE TO  
**JOHNNY FAVOURITE & THE SWING KINGS**

• OPEN 'TIL 3:30 AM EVERY NIGHT •  
2021 Brunswick St. at Cogswell • 425-0889

**BIRDLAND ON-LINE:**  
<http://www.textureweb.ns.ca/birdland>

**RETRO NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY**