

GATEWAY TO THE arts

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1965

Belmondo Stars In Film Society's Presentation

By Marion Raycheba

"Breathless," last Monday's Film Society presentation, has little to commend it but the perfect choice of Jean-Paul Belmondo for the part of Michel.

A 1959 French film, "Breathless" was directed by Jean-Luc Godard.

Belmondo plays the adorable villain, the naughty hero with finesse. True, he is a murderer, but an appealing one. Even his constant cigarette, a fifth limb, adds

to his charm.

The plot is simple, the two policemen in pursuit provide highly entertaining comic suspense (of a sort), and the dialogue at times is screamingly funny.

THERE'S THE RUB

But Jean Seberg provides the proverbial rub.

As Patricia, Miss Seberg has a shade of a disagreeable simper. Watching her, one cannot quite banish the thought of Iowa corn. Her soul-searching seems one of form only and not the tortuous examination of self, torn by the desire to do what is right and what she half-wants.

Of a less serious nature, one really cannot accept Patricia's claims of bedroom conquests. Bobby sox, T-shirts, a pixie cut and torrid love affairs have little in common.

MORAL VOID

Patricia is meant as a picture of a moral void. And this she is to perfection—with only one problem. Miss Seberg is a complete void.

One would enjoy the movie more if the void were removed (that is, Miss Seberg) and the adventures of our hero were pursued without her. One can easily understand the demand for Belmondo in film circles, subsequent to his appearance in "Breathless."

What one cannot so easily understand is the demand for Miss Seberg. Although her later performance in "Five Day Lover" was much improved, her appearance here gave little indication of such future promise.

Soloists Featured At Symphony

The University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Professor Arthur Crighton is performing tonight and tomorrow night in Convocation Hall at 8:15 p.m.

Soloists will be Marlene Nepsstad, Nick Pulos and Bill Fawcett.

The concert will include works of Prokofieff, Schumann, Wagner, Mendelssohn, Dittersdorf and Edmonton's Violet Archer.

Tickets at \$1 each will be available at the door.

Cole Show Now At Yardbird Suite

The Incomparable Cole is Yardbird Suite's guest artist February 3-13.

The "Cole Variety Show" is packed with feats of levitation, hypnosis, escape tricks, sharp-shooting and music.

Known as the only man alive able to duplicate Houdini's trunk under water escape, Cole will perform each evening at 9:30 p.m. at the Suite (10443 Whyte Avenue).

Book Review

Canadian Author Explores Man's Responsibility To Society

As a special service to our readers, *The Gateway* will publish a series of reviews of new Canadian literature.

"The Deserter"

Douglas LePan
McClelland and Stewart
298 pages
\$5.95

By Wayne Dowler

With alarming rapidity, modern society and social institutions are overwhelming individual man.

Can a man drop from society, abandon his responsibility to others and isolate himself in a sea of indifference?

In "The Deserter," Canadian author, diplomat and professor, Douglas LePan, explores the possibility of such a retreat.

AWAITING DISCHARGE

Rusty, a soldier awaiting discharge at the close of World War II, faces a life of further regimentation under his father. He flees to a large city in search of the perfection he once found in an erotic adventure.

But his search is unsuccessful and he devotes his attention to the assertion of his freedom from the clutches of society.

At first Rusty meets success and lives beyond responsibility. Mark, a wartime friend and a man of responsibility in the Ministry, reminds him of his obligation to his family. But as yet his sphere of oblivion remain unmarred.

Anne, a woman who needs his love and understanding, is

the first to disturb the balance he has found. They quarrel and separate and she leaves the city to save Rusty from the mental destruction she must face.

UNBEARABLE

Could he have saved her? The question is unbearable and holds the added burden of her parting words: "never despair! You have a heart big enough for anguish."

Rusty cannot shake dependencies. Steve, a young refugee caught between the law and the criminal world, comes to him, hoping to find security from fear.

But Rusty himself is caught between two worlds. The police hunt him down as a deserter and the "gang" searches

him out as an informer.

In desperate flight, he strives to preserve the tottering sphere of his individualism from the crushing forces of society.

ASSUME GUILT

Rusty is at last forced into realization of the inescapable responsibilities as he assumes guilt in Steve's death. The lesson he has learned is hard and he surrenders to the authorities.

"The Deserter" is interestingly conceived. Often Mr. LePan drifts into astounding similes, far too metaphysical to complement the brutal reality of the plot.

The story itself is excellent and, as a whole, the book is a curio among Canadian novels.

Even Or Odd It's Up To God

By Jon Whyte

"Have you ever felt alone on a limb . . . without Him?" Do you feel spiritually lost? Have you taken ZEN-Zen for spiritual bad breath?

Stan Freberg has undertaken a ploy to get people to church, and those of use who have been listening to commercial radio are beginning to get the message.

Mr. Freberg may be a master of wit and good taste, but we don't think he's gone far enough.

Everyone's going to mistake his commercials for new real estate deals. Can't you hear it?

Those spacious Elysian Fields are waiting for you. Nothing on the line now, just keep your aspirations high and pray later.

But with our modifications there won't be any ambiguity. Everything will be clear. For example:

Nine out of ten people who suffer from religious disenchantment prefer GOD. Do you feel lonely? Do you feel like a lost soul? Why don't you try GOD this Sunday? He's so satisfying.

And, if we must have music in our commercials, why don't you try singing these with a bit of inspiration?

**If you're feeling sad,
And a little bit bad,
If you are tired and blue,
Then the odds are twelve to seven,
That you won't get to Heaven,
You'll be left in the air, without prayer.
But if you find that your odds are odd
Don't forget YOU can go with God? !!**

But we can take a leaf from the latest Bible of Pierre Berton, too:

**You may think you're a comfortable you,
Sitting in your comfortable pew,
So the minister can't hulptit,
If he preaches and teaches from a comfortable pulpit,
If it happened to you,
You'd have palpitations, too.**

Yes, indeed Christ was correct when he said in the other language of our country, "Sur ce Pierre je construirai mon eglise."

He couldn't have been more wrong.



GATEWAY MASCOT—Regina wandered into Fine Arts department to see what was arty. She said she was on the track of a story both newsworthy and arty but kindly stopped to pose with an ashtray (neither newsworthy nor arty).