

Comedy Asylum presents 'Mixed Grill'

The Comedy Asylum is celebrating New Brunswick's 200 Birthday in a big way with a winter tour of their original musical

revue, *Maritime Mixed Grill*, described as a "smiling salute to down home New Brunswick."

The Comedy Asylum, an

The Woodshed presents Blair Hebert

Friday night, the Woodshed presents Blair Hebert. Blair is a very experienced musician who has played in many local bars. You may have seen him in the Red & Black Review or St. Thomas Production, Jesus Christ Superstar, Fiddler on the Roof, or Godspell. As well as being a talented musician, he is a successful amateur actor. Last summer he wrote, produced and performed a one man show for a Dinner Theatre at the Wandlyn Inn. His style of music includes original material, jazz, pop, and acapella songs.

On Saturday, Ed and Walter Constantine will perform a varied selection of contemporary pop songs by such artists as Jim Croce, Simon & Garfunkel and Neil Young. They provide their own accompaniment with guitar and banjo. Ed and Walter, second year UNB students, have appeared in various Fredericton talent competitions and variety shows. They were last year's winners of the Fredericton Exhibition Talent Contest.

Keep your eyes open for notices concerning video movies being shown at the Woodshed next Thursday and Friday evening. Movie titles will be announced. Admission is free and so is the popcorn. So don't miss it.

independent theatre company, was founded in Fredericton in November, 1981. The company's goals were, and are, to offer a theatrical alternative to Maritime audiences and to create employment opportunities for beginning professional performers. Their growth and success rate in achieving these goals has been more than satisfactory: "We've done seven full-scale productions in the past two years; two maritime and five New Brunswick tours" says Marshall Button, the company's Artistic Director.

In the course of this time period, the Comedy Asylum has offered 48 jobs to actors and technicians and played to over eleven thousand patrons in dinner theatres, coffee houses, bars, hotel rooms, shopping malls, schools and theatres. They have produced nineteen original sketches and monologues, a new translation of Moliere and a one-act play to tie together the unlikely combination of Georges Feydeau and Eugene Ionesco.

"*Maritime Mixed Grill* is the show we've been planning right from the beginning" says Jenny Munday, company manager and resident stand-up comic. "Our improvisational style and close contact with our audiences before, during and after the shows has prepared us for this comic and affectionate portrait of our home province." Says Button, "We've become great thieves, robbing material from the people we meet and the situations that surround us."

The cast and crew for the Comedy Asylum's *Maritime Mixed Grill* will include along with regulars Button

and Munday, technician Jim Gow, Associate-Producer Alfred Paul-Elias, graphic designer Vaughn Fulford, composer Joan Wellhouser, Actor David Peterson and Actress Janice Hansen.

Maritime Mixed Grill goes into rehearsal this week and opens (a world premiere!) in dinner theatre at Fredericton's Wandlyn Inn February 10th. The tour will take the show to Woodstock, Bathurst, Campbellton, Edmundston, Dalhousie, Newcastle, Moncton, Amherst, Antigonish, Sydney, Bridgewater and Kentville throughout February and March.

Newsflash

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XTC Mummer reviewed

by WILFRED LANGMAID
Brunswickan Staff

XTC - Mummer

The long-awaited follow-up to their fine 1982 LP *English Settlement* which yielded the hit "Sense Working Overtime", Mummer lays to rest fears that the group was finished. The band now operates as a three-man unit following the departure of drummer Terry Chambers.

XTC's music could best be described as pastoral, nurtured by acoustic guitars rather than synthesizers. This trend which was clear on *English Settlement* is expanded on *Mummer* and the lyrics are, if anything, even more profound on this new LP.

The music is unmistakably XTC, whether one listens to the conventional "Me and The Wind, the new music/past pastoral sound fusion of "Wonderland", or the fine "Love On A Farm-boy's Wages", whose brilliant combination of

acoustic guitars and stark drumming serve as the perfect framework for Andy Partridge's vocals.

XTC can kiss a hit single goodbye on many of these cuts, but "Great Fire" may prove to be an exception, despite its unusual instrumentation with some really offbeat string and bass.

There are departures. XTC even goes for what sounds like electronic sound effects in the strange African-undertoned "Humna Alchemy". They get pretty poppish in the unusual soldier's "In Loving Memory Of A Name", and "Ladybird" is uncharacteristically straightforward.

XTC has always seemed to hold trendy music somewhat in disdain, and lyricist/vocalist/guitarist Partridge is at the most scathing in "Fun Pop a Roll", telling "Funk pop a roll beats up my soul / Dozing like napalm from the speakers and grill of your radio / Into the mouths of

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