# Good time mime meets audience approval

O.J. Anderson, the One and Only "Good **Provincial Museum Theatre** Saturday, March 3, 8:00 PM

#### review by Gunnar Blodgett

O.J. Anderson is not a "pure mime". Nor does he want to be. Delighting a small but enthusiastic crowd of fans last Saturday, the veteran performer proved true to his billing, "the good time mime."

Andersonescapes from the ascetism of "pure mime" in his creative and energetic use of props and his own pleasant voice. He doesn't stress technique, "as long as the people can understand," he is happy. His routines, from "Apple" to "Mime 101" and "Reception", bear out Anderson's desire to reach his audience.

"Mime," says Anderson, "is a 50-50 deal... the audience has to do half the work. They have to laugh and join in on the sound effects. It's fun to be able to laugh at yourself." It is this audience-performer bond that Anderson exploits, going beyond his extensive training to create an atmosphere of fantasy. He adds, reflectively, "when you're doing Swan Lake, you know... there's got to be something there besides technique."

Envision a blank stage. An oddly dressed young man comes out with his back to the audience and works his way along the rear curtain, apparently painting it. After some contorted efforts to reach a high place on the wall, his eye catches the right side of the audience and gazes at us in slow disbelief.

Then he starts counting us off. Someone walks in late, and the man impatiently looks at an imaginary watch and taps his foot to the appreciative applause of the audience. The mime gives a quirky half-smile and returns to his task.

Finally, he stops, turns toward the wings and nodding, rubs his fingers together to indicate "lotsa cash here, yup". Thus ends the introductory routine of an evening of mime those who saw will not

Anderson has an incredibly expressive body. His face and hands speak volumes with each gesture, and his back alone pantomimes the greatest tragedies of life. A thrust of the chest or extension of the hands seems to create a universe of material which is as real to the audience as their seats. Yet Anderson's effort to involve the

audience in his worlds goes beyond this.
In "Cowboy Jim Bob" O.J. turns the audience into his sound effects, inciting groups to the production of various hoots and hisses as required by his story. Unexpectedly for him, the sound effects flow over into his next skit, "Pay Toilet." In "Moon Stools" the involvement is

heightened as Anderson pulls three members of the audience into a game of musical chairs with deely boppers. Anderson is both participant and time judge, but loses to an excited and prepared opponent.

By far the most involving and entertaining skit was "The sad, sad, tale of Fanny Moore". Here, while narrating and directing a schmaltzy tragedy about a tragically doomed love triangle, Anderson demonstrates his ability to improvise with the audiences' faux pas and ideas as well as telling them where to stand. After "Fanny

Moore" has died, O.J. is standing by her husband singing "he fell down by her side... he fell down by her side", while stage-struck hubby continues to stand six feet away from her. Finally, O.J. turns and kicks hubby, singing "he fell down by her side (move it dummy, lie down!)" Far from looking stupid, he makes the whole scene look absolutely hilarious in its sad tragic poignance.

Anderson may be back during the summer in the Edmonton Folk Music

### Feminist theatre group performs Saturday

**Hecate's Players: Feminist Theatre in Edmonton** 

By Amanda Le Rougetel

It happened one night: a couple of friends, a few bottles of wine, some talk about how Edmonton's feminist community really needed something new and creative to liven it up a bit and voila!....Hecate's Players was born.

Hecate's Players is a recently formed

feminist theatre group.

A "theatrical" format for a number of reasons: there is so much information already in existence - good and useful information - that simply doesn't get out to the vast majority of people because few have the time to read volumes and volumes of stats, reports and briefs.

A lot of women have done a lot of writing - diaries, novels, short stories, essays over the last century or so. Sadly, these writings are all too often unknown and left unread because they do not represent what the mainstream of society considers to be

worthwhile or legitimate reading.

Hecate's Players takes this written information from its original form and translates it into a new format: Taking stats and facts and combining them with poetry and women's own stories told in their own

Another important feature of the "theatrical" format opposed to that of lecturing is that the relationship between

the performer(s) and the audience is vastly different. A lecturer tends to be regarded as an expert by her audience thus establishing a relationship of inequality between per-former and audience. Actors, on the other hand, assume characters and "play at being someone else" so that difference between expert and neophyte is diminished. A lot of the responsibility for interpretation and comprehension is placed in the audience's lap thereby increasing their active participation in the learning process.

Hecate's Players consists of a coregroup of 5 women who share equally the responsibility of researching, writing, acting and the artistic and technical directing of the group's productions.

There are two scripts in the repertoire: the first, A Creation in Process: Organizing Towards a New Reality, is a collection of women's writings dealing with women's lives, hopes and dreams; the second is called Taking Back Our Own...Issues Facing Alberta Women Past and Present and is more documentary in style. It focuses on Alberta women and covers a number of topics from poverty to pensions, por-nography to battered women.

Hecate's Players will perform in the Women's Fair celebrating International Women's Day on Saturday afternoon, March 10th at the Centennial Library Theatre downtown.

### **Literary Supplement**

Deadline for submissions: March 16, 1984

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**Ticket Prices** 

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Students & Youth: \$3.00

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First 500 fans to the game will receive a FREE GIFT compliments of Coca-Cola and the Golden Bears.

### Saturday is Fan Appreciation Night and Cheer for Beer!

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and Monday, March 19, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. N.A.I.T. Little Theatre, H5

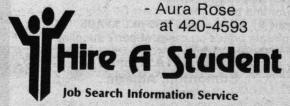
Topics discussed will include:

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Past Student Business operators and other Guest speakers will be present to answer any questions you may have in this

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