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ARTS

Into the Artificial World

by Ron Howe

Recently I had the extreme, uh, opportunity of attending the International Festival of Authors to hear Deidre Bair read in the posh, ultra yup/trendy Dance Theatre at Harbourfront.

Bair is a biographer of Samuel Beckett, Simone De Beauvoir, and currently is working on one of Anais Nin.

Instead of concentrating on the reading I would rather devote this piece to a more important current trend in literature which was exemplified in tonight's charades.

I'll admit I'm not as familiar with Beauvoir's works as I am with her lifestyle. I have read Nin and am well acquainted with the highly sexual nature or rather erotic nature of her works. The books of Ms. Nin certainly speak extensively for themselves, and although the curious or interested reader may want to know more about her life (see current movie *Henry and June* for more on her) the essential point is that she is an artist, and her art is all she has to create. It is up to the reader to get what he or she might gain from it. Her personal life should not really come into question. However, the theme of this year's Festival is biographies.

Carolyn Cassidy, in her biography of LIFE with Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassidy certainly is as much a story in itself, as LIFE with the Beat Generation would be, and interests those readers of the aforementioned.

Now when some rich PH.D with a lot of time and money has access to materials that the regular layman doesn't, and makes her mark on the world by writing about other writers and their work, well, that's as close to plagiarism as I think there could be. The works of the great authors stand on their own, and for some well educated California-type to sit and give her interpretations of not only their work, but of their lives and motivations as well, well, hell.

Obviously there is a large market for this sort of thing, but then again large publishing houses don't take too many chances, as is the case with the massive volume Bair has put out on Beauvoir

From: *Seduction of the Minotaur* by Anais Nin

(718 pages including 60 pages of index). Also it doesn't seem that people are very interested in anything new or current, specifically the literary stuff-shirted mannequins who usually make up the crowds at these mainstage readings.

To tell the truth I lost interest about halfway through, and only stayed due to intoxicated hopes of asking some original questions during the question period. I laughed at all the wrong parts and alternately felt a mild disgust, then hysteria at the ridiculousness of it all.

In the end I just took my ideas out the door and through this extravagantly designed, overpriced artificial world called Harbourfront, walked back up to the Bull and sat with some real people with real, original thoughts.



Anais Nin

**Solomon Still rocks hard
at Lee's tomorrow, for a
pair of comps drop in to
Excal today after 1 pm.**

arts calendar

compiled by Trevor Campbell

Galleries

From **Nov. 12-16**, the **I.D.A. Gallery**, in the Fine Arts Building, Phase 2, presents multi-media installations based on cliches and visual plays on words, by John Marriot, Craig Porter, and David Faris. The show opens on Thurs. Nov. 8.

From **Nov. 19-23**, the **I.D.A.** features new sculptures by Trish Lyons and Ulrika Zackrisson.

Film

On **Nov. 16/17**, at 7 and 9pm, the **YFS/FEY's Reel and Screen**, presents *Robo Cop 1* and *2*. The films will be shown in the Curtis L screening room and the price of admission is \$5.50, for both, or \$3.50 for the second show only (for non-members). Or \$4.50 and \$2.50 for members.

Readings

On **Mondays** at 5pm, the Creative Writing Dept. has its *Creative Collective Poetry Readings* in the **Vanier Senior Common Room**.

On **Nov. 21**, at 5pm, *The York Women's Centre* presents a reading of feminist prose and poetry in **Founder's Senior Common Room**.

Comedy

On **Nov. 23** the *Four Strombones*, a comedy/improv troupe, will appear at Vanier's **Open End**.

Dance

On **Nov. 22**, at 8pm, York Dance presents *Carnival York* at the **Burton Auditorium**. This performance showcases music and dance from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, that the Dance Dept. will include in its upcoming trip to Morelia, Mexico this Dec. Where they will participate in the *Third Annual International Conference on Dance Research*.

Concerts

York-based band *Solomon Still* rock at **Lee's Palace** Thursday, November 15th at 9pm.