

Canadian content theatre magazine published by York

By WARREN CLEMENTS

The Canadian Theatre Review, a quarterly magazine "aimed at documenting, reflecting and analyzing the Canadian theatre as it exists today", will publish its first issue this January at York.

Edited by Don Rubin of York's theatre department, the 100-page journal will be published by the university through the Faculty of Fine Arts. Each issue will include a previously unpublished, full-length Canadian script.

"There's a precedent for this with Herschel Hardin's play *Escher Mike* and his *Wife Agaluk*, which appeared three years ago in the (US) *Drama Review*," said Frank Michael, the review's managing editor.

"*Escher Mike's* publications provided Canadian theatres with an impetus to take a look at the play with an eye to producing it. I think that sort of service to the profession at large belongs in a Canadian theatre review."

The first issue of CTR will feature Newfoundland playwright Michael Cook's *The Head, Guts and Sound Dance*, followed by John Herbert's *Born of Medusa's Blood* and a George Ryga play in the second and third issues.

The journal will feature essays exploring given themes — such as the Canadian theatre and government, Canadian festivals, and regional and alternative theatres — as well as a

"carte blanche" column featuring unstructured opinions from across the country.

"The idea for the review has been kicking around for a couple of years," said Michael. "This is not a parochial York thing, it is a national magazine. Its success will depend on the reception it receives within the profession."

He said the CTR will not duplicate or compete with existing magazines like *Performing Arts in Canada*, which he called "a more popular, general magazine."

"Perhaps the average theatre-goer would not find it illuminating to subscribe to CTR. It would be nice if he did, mind you. But our basic appeal is to actors, directors, stage managers and students of theatre."

The review's editorial advisory board includes 13 well-known members of the Canadian theatrical world, including director Marion Andre, playwright-professor Mavor Moore, Calgary critic James Portman, Stratford actor Powys Thomas and York fine arts dean Joe Green.

"We're trying to have a workable marriage between the academic and practising theatre community," explained Michael.

Initial printing of the journal will be 2,000 copies per issue, selling for \$1.50 each or, with a subscription, \$4.50 annually and \$8 for two years. The Review's headquarters are located in Room 222 Administrative Studies.



Richard the King

Satire mixed with Shakespeare

By AGNES KRUCHIO

Ever since the media began to satirize the election of Nixon as the 'coronation of King Richard', it was only a matter of time before someone gave us a tragedy of *Richard the King*.

This is admirably done in an original work now playing at the Toronto Workshop Theatre, in a takeoff on Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

The *Richard* in *Richard Third Time*, however, is no scion of royalty, but — you guessed it — Milhous himself.

Keeping as much of the language and plot as possible and still expressing profuse contemporary wit, the play is a funny, biting political satire of the rise of *Richard*, the Deformed Lump, to power.

Nixon is reported to have said: "Political positions have always come to me because I was there and it was the right time and the right place. It all depends on what the times call for." Hence he is portrayed as a Lump, that can be molded into any shape.

He is surrounded by a court of gruesome animals, with the actors all playing double roles. The Toad is Buckagnew, the Snake plays Pet, the Dragon is Haildeman, the Bat Burlickman, the Monkey Lord Dean of Mitchell, and his wife, Martha, the Spider; Kissingham appears in the form of a vulture, and Zeigheiler is a centipede.

The play traces Nixon's career from his lowly beginnings through times when he almost gives up, such as the period of the "good King Kennedy's" rule. He mournfully informs the cloaked members of the fourth estate that they will no longer have him "to kick around anymore". It is a touching moment indeed.

He remains on stage however, hovering in the background, watching, waiting, no matter what happens on the national scene. He is always ready.

The play retains much of the original Shakespearean form — if not in the language itself, then in some reasonable facsimile. Fast-moving and

snappy, it cloaks much contemporary wit in 'shakespeareanese' — but you know it isn't Shakespeare because of the occasional contemporary cussword that bursts forth in the middle of some florid speech. The effect of the juxtaposition is devastatingly funny.

The authors expose many fallacies of popular myth — the Ministry of Truth really deals with deception, the Ministry of Peace actually busies itself with war, and so it goes. A highpoint of the play comes when, after much manipulation, King Richard is finally crowned; staring out over the audience, the entire cast emits a spine-tingling roar of leering derision.

Actor Allan Royal plays an excellent Nixon. He creates an uncanny resemblance by capturing a key element in Nixon's personality—an oozing nebulous banality that makes you have to concentrate to see the man's face.

Though on stage much of the time, there always seems to be a vacuum in the spot where he stands. He exudes mediocrity through every pore.

Francois-Regis Klanfer plays Kissingham with a wickedly pronounced German accent ("Ze illegal ve vill do immediately; ze unconstitutional vill take a little time").

Director Luscombe makes ingenious use of a steep ramp framed by a proscenium arch of thorns as the center of action. The setting then can change according to the scene—a truly Shakespearean device.

He overdoes a good thing, though, when he repeatedly groups the actors around the foot of the ramp — a more varied use of space would be refreshing.

Let me, however, make one thing perfectly clear: though Stratford's Shakespeare this isn't, the cleverness of the costumes notwithstanding, it is a very timely and satisfying way of dressing down the emperor — er, king, Richard.

Laughter is the only medicine.

Cabaret sombre, lighthearted and fun

By RONDA COOPER

The Cabaret Theatre presented four performances last Thursday and Friday in Vanier's Open End coffee shop.

The show flowed smoothly and produced an overall effect of lighthearted fun and enjoyment, but it had its more sombre moments too. For example, one skit portrayed the futility of "waiting one's turn" or waiting for opportunity to knock in contrast with the efficacy of aggressively (even violently) taking what you want.

Basically it was an evening of comedy, the most appropriate form of entertainment for a cabaret, varying from political satire to farcical pantomime with some lively topical digs at York.

The most notable element of the Cabaret is the fact that all of the performing, directing, and technical work and most of the writing is done by York students. Like the song says, "Come to the Cabaret."

On Campus

SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 3:15 pm - Guest Speaker (Glendon Political Science Department) "Analysis of Quebec Election" by Richard Cleroux, Quebec Bureau Chief of the *Globe & Mail* newspaper - 204, York Hall, Glendon

4 pm - 6 pm - President's Fortnightly Forum - "Economic Nationalism" by Professor I. Feltham, Osgoode Hall Law School - Faculty Lounge, 8th floor, Ross

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm - Guest Speaker (Continuing Education) "Psychodrama I" with Dr. Susanna Evenson; a presentation of basic theory of Psychodrama as an actual method with demonstrations - Dr. Evenson is presently with the Regis Jesuit Seminary as an instructor in 'Bibliodrama' and a consultant to the Manual Convalescent Home in Aurora - general admission is \$6.00, students - \$4.00 - 107, Stedman

Monday 2:30 pm - 5 pm - Guest Speaker (Political Science) "The Future of Democratic Socialism in Canada" by Charles Taylor, Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at McGill University and the University of Montreal - Atkinson Common Room

3 pm - Television Interview - with John Livingston, author, naturalist and conservationist (member of York's Faculty of Environmental Studies) on the CBC program "Take Thirty" - Mr. Livingston will also be seen on the same program on Tuesday and Wednesday - Channel 5

FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 7 pm & 9:30 pm - International Film Series (Environmental Studies) "Garden of the Finzi-Continis" (Italy) - series subscription \$5.00 for six films; individual admission \$1.00 - I, Curtis

Friday 8 pm - Film (Winters) "Hieronymus Merkin" - admission \$1.25 - I, Curtis

Saturday 8:30 pm - Film (Bethune) "Superfly" (a black crime drama), score by Curtis Mayfield - admission \$1.00 - L, Curtis

Sunday 8 pm - Film (Winters) "Hieronymus Merkin" - admission \$1.25 - I, Curtis

8:30 pm - Film (Bethune) "Superfly" - admission \$1.00 - L, Curtis

Monday 4 pm - Canadian History Films (History) "Joseph Howe" and "Louis Joseph Papineau" - A, Stedman Education) the following films deal with sports and education - "It's Winning that Counts", "The Rink" and "Volleyball" - N833, Ross

4 pm - 4:55 pm - Film (Humanities 179B) "Dr. Leakey and the Dawn of Man" - extra seating available - I, Curtis

5 pm - 6:10 pm - Film (Humanities 174A) "McLaren Opening Speech" and "Tales of Hoffman" - extra seating available - I, Curtis

7 pm - Film (Film Department) "Dodeskaden" (1970; by Kurosawa) - L, Curtis

8:30 pm - Performing Arts Series (Faculty of Fine Arts) featuring Al Chung-Liang Huang and Suzanne Pierce in "Theatre Dance: East and West" - general admission \$7.00; staff - \$5.50; students - \$3.50 - Burton Auditorium
Wednesday 4:15 pm - Films (Humanities 373) "Fun Factory" and "The Cameraman" (Buster Keaton) - extra seating available - 129, York Hall, Glendon

CLUBS, MEETINGS

Thursday 4 pm - York Debating Club - organizational meeting - for further information call Howard Harvey at 630-5509 - N203, Ross

Monday 12 noon - 2 pm - Student Services Community - Luncheon/meeting; all interested members of the York community invited to participate - S869, Ross

7 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm - Hatha Yoga - JCR, McLaughlin
7:30 pm - York Bridge Club - Vanier Dining Hall

ATHLETICS, RECREATION

Friday 7:30 am - 9 pm - Faculty & Staff Hockey - Ice Arena
Sunday 1 pm - Football - York vs. Queen's University - CNE Stadium

Monday 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm - Conditioning for Men & Women - each Mon., Wed., and Fri. - Tait McKenzie
Wed., and Fri. - Tait McKenzie

Tuesday 8:15 pm - Basketball - York vs. Alumni - Tait McKenzie
Wednesday 8:15 pm - Hockey - York vs. Ryerson Polytechnical Institute - Ice Arena

COFFEE HOUSES, PUBS

For days and hours open, please call the individual coffee houses:

Absinthe Coffee House - 013, Winters (2439)

Ainger Coffee Shop - Atkinson College (3544)

Argh Coffee Shop - 051, McLaughlin (3506)

Buttery - Founders (3550)

Cock & Bull Coffee Shop - 023, Founders (3667)

Green Bush Inn - T.B.A. (3019)

Just Another Coffee Shop - 112, Bethune (3579)

Open End Coffee Shop - 004, Vanier (6386)

Orange Snail Coffee Shop - 107, Stong (3587)

Osgoode Pub - JCR, Osgoode (3019)

Pizza Pit - 124, Central Square, Ross (3286)

Tap'n Keg Pub - JCR, Bethune (6 pm - 12:30 am, Wed.)

MISCELLANEOUS

Friday 1 pm - York Muslims - 011, Founders

Sunday 7:30 pm - Roman Catholic Mass - 107, Stedman

Tuesday 9 am - 3:30 pm - Christian Counselling & Religious Consultation - by Chaplain Judt; telephone 661-3738 or 633-2158

7 pm - 10 pm Harbinger Community Services - will be open at these hours each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in addition to regular daytime hours - call 667-3509 or 667-3632 - 214, Vanier Residence

Events for On Campus should be sent to Dawn Cotton, Department of Information and Publications, N817 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.