

TNB's 18 Wheels is a Winner



The cast of 18 Wheels start the show rolling. Singing the opening number are, from left to right: Jan Kudelka, Mary Trainor, Stan Lesk, and Tom Gallant.

THE FREDERICTON FOLK COLLECTIVE

This week's column is brief. We have a reminder of our next coffeehouse, Friday, October 19th (a week from today), 8:30 at Memorial Hall. Our featured musician is Rodnay Brown, a singer/songwriter from Northwest Ontario. Brown has been earning a living from his music through performances at an incredible number of Folk Festivals, coffeehouses, bars and lounges (mostly in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan) for the last six years. He has released an LP under TDC records which is highly entertaining. I find his songs very strong, very melodic. They touch on many themes - political, traditional and romantic. Brown sings beautifully and plays a clean guitar. All goes to say we hope you can come next Friday evening to hear him. We remind you of the Song Circle, also Thursday evenings, 9:00 in the Woodshed. Bring along your guitar, your fiddle, your voice, or whatever, and share some music. All are welcome. For any information about the Folk Collective, call Andrew Bartlett at 455-6120.



Noon Time Series Presents Circus Gothic

CIRCUS GOTHIC is the story of the last of the old time tented circuses: a way of life almost extinct with the onslaught of plaza carnivals and "playing indoors at the town arena". CIRCUS GOTHIC is the story of the oldest conflict of all: the suspicion and hatred of the town people for the circus and the hatred of the circus for the very towns they play. Set in the Maritimes, CIRCUS GOTHIC brings to life a tragedy of waste and death through the solo performance of Jan Kudelaka. It is a gripping first hand account of the circus families ... and the survival of 28 student clowns who thought they could change it all. Come see it change them.

PERFORMANCE: October 31, 1979, at 12:00 noon, Marshall d'Avray Hall Auditorium, Room 143

ADMISSION: UNB/STU Students and CAC Subscribers - FREE Students and Senior Citizens \$2.00 Adults - \$3.00

by Rethlingshafer

From the opening song, it was apparent that Theatre New Brunswick's "18 Wheels" was a winner. Tom Gallant, Mary Trainor, Jan Kudelaka, and Stan Lesk highballed through this fast-paced show with relentless energy and left the audience on their feet shouting their approval on opening night at the Playhouse.

"18 Wheels" is a rollicking musical by John Gray and will be playing nightly this week in Fredericton before it leaves on a two week tour of the province.

"18 Wheels" is a musical revue focussing on scenes and situations from the world of truckers. The four actors assume roles of truckers, wives, dispatchers, waitresses, etc., to bring the

characters of this world to life. "18 Wheels" follows these people across the truck stops of North America, although the audience never loses sight of the fact that this is a very Canadian show.

Imaginative direction by Malcolm Black, and super-confidence on the part of the performers bring a very warm nightclub atmosphere to the somewhat formal setting of the Playhouse.



MADFLEINE DEWOLFE Photo

Ted Jones appeared at the Woodshed last week, with Mark Kristmanson.

The musicians for the show are comprised of members of the Nova Scotia based band, "Chalice" under the direction of Bob Quinn (also of "Chalice"), who wrote the worthy arrangements. With a masterful use of dynamics and harmonies, Quinn made the music appealing to all - from classical to straight country music buffs.

The irrepressible Dutch Schultz, on drums, surprised both audience and performers with random remarks and spontaneous humour.

The set is impressive and provides the right kind of visual background with four Mac trucks on screens above an irregularly racked stage supporting the band. Designer, Art Penson, and the construction staff of the playhouse deserve the credit for the attractive set which also allowed some clever staging.

The sound is more than adequate, being at once clear and powerful, without over bearing qualities.

Geoff George's lighting rounded off the technical precision of the show with tight specials, deep colours, and some surprising effects.

"18 Wheels" is, without a doubt, a fine way to close the 1979 TNB season, and is well worth seeing.