



IF BERT COULD SEE US NOW: Martin Seifert as Filch and Renate Richter as Mrs. Peachum in the Berliner Ensemble production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

Brecht's German opera isn't as foreign as it sounds

By KEN KEOBKE

Many people who have never heard of *The Threepenny Opera* can hum "Mac the Knife." The story, based on the 200-year-old *Beggar's Opera* by Englishman John Gay, concerns Mac the Knife Macheath, who disturbs the social fabric of London's underworld by marrying the daughter of his competitor, the King of the Beggars.

Bertolt Brecht's *Opera*, with music by Kurt Weill and performed by the Berliner Ensemble, was one of the major draws of last week's Brecht Festival in Toronto. Before the performance, several in the audience nervously debated whether it would have surtitles, supratitles, or subtitles in English. It didn't. It was in German.

When you don't understand the language of the play, what you are watching becomes dance. The story is still, for the most part, discernable, but the language and sounds become music and the motion takes all your attention. In many plays, this would be disastrously boring.

The Berliner Ensemble was Brecht's own company and has been

kept alive, 30 years after his death, performing his works in much the same way they were originally staged. This is an artistic decision surrounded by some controversy with critics complaining that the productions are artificial museum exhibits without theatrical value.

A small departure taken in the Royal Alexander Theatre production was the use of a semi-punk crowd scene to start the show off. Disappointingly, it only created an unfulfilled expectation as the motif was not preserved or even used again throughout the show. (A far superior English production of *The Threepenny Opera*, in Victoria in 1984, was done on a stage of chain link fences by a cast dressed in elegant punk.)

There were also technical problems associated with transporting a show across the Atlantic for only three performances. The Ensemble didn't have time to adjust to the particulars (such as the balcony view) of the Royal Alexandra stage.

However, it was exciting to walk out after the show, having shared in the original Brecht, in his own language, by his own company, your hands tingling from too many encores.

Vid-fest open to student video artists

By KEVIN PASQUINO

Because videos are a relatively new art form they do not receive the same attention that films do. There are film festivals galore, but video festivals still tend to be rather rare. An exception is Video Culture International, and the organization is now hosting its fourth annual festival, to which students are invited.

A non-profit organization, Video Culture International is the brainchild of Peter Lynch and Renya Onasick. Seeing the need for some kind of gathering of videos, the duo came up with the idea of a festival that would bring together videos from around the world.

Gaining support for the festival was difficult four years ago, but this year Video Culture International is receiving recognition by City TV, MuchMusic and Europe's Sky Channel, as well as continued support from Sony International, the festival's original supporter.

Spokesperson for the organization Suzanne Coulombe said that the festival has succeeded due to both word of mouth and the enthusiasm the idea has inspired. Acting as more than just a competition, Video Culture International allows the Toronto community to see not only popular videos but experimental videos as well. These are the best videos countries such as France, Japan and Holland have to offer, all gathered in one show.

Many still think of videos as being only vehicles for rock stars to push their latest hits. This bias is unfortunate because it tends to overshadow the other forms video can take.

Ranging from home video to computer graphics, the festival has a wide variety of entrance categories both commercial and independent. There are 11 categories in total, eight of them being independent.

York student videos may be submitted for the competition in both the student category and in the

secondary category. For instance, a student documentary could be entered as both a student film and as a documentary.

To get an idea of what kind of videos have been entered in past festivals, every Sunday night MuchMusic is highlighting previous entrants and winners. On December 2 The Diamond Club will be hosting a gathering showcasing this year's entrants, and MuchMusic will be doing the same from December 2-6. Winners from this year's entrants will be shown in August of 1987 at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The deadline for entries in this year's competition is November 14, and while this makes it difficult to start production of a video, Coulombe said that any video made after January 1984 is eligible for this year's festival. All videos entered will be receiving international recognition, and the festival continues to display the changes in a still growing medium.

York grad gets her first *Real* role in comic play premiere

By BONNIE MITTEN

Set in the trendy Soho district of New York City, *Next Time For Real* is a comic play that centres on the life of a terrible singer who imagines herself to be the "new" Edith Piaf. Talented York graduate Catherine Marrion will play Sydnee Post, the aspiring "singer" in the world premiere of Harry Cauley's *Next Time For Real* opening at the Adelaide Theatre November 1.

This is Catherine Marrion's first major performance since graduating from York's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programme this year. She moved to Toronto from British Columbia where she had acquired a variety of experience in television, radio and live theatre. Marrion decided to take two years off to study at York and was one of three students admitted into the MFA theatre programme. Due to the actress' exceptional talent, Marrion was accepted into the programme without a BA degree.

Marrion is very pleased with the training she received, especially with the many roles that she played in the theatre department's special repertory season. "I played Mistress Ford in the *Merry Wives of Windsor* and



"OOH, I'M SO GLAD TO BE IN EXCALIBUR!" From left to right: Yo Mustafa as Walter, Kevin Haxell as Mark Webster, and York's own Catherine Marrion as Sydnee.

Fyokla the Match-maker in *The Marriage*. It was very good experience," she explained.

However, *Next Time For Real* presents a challenge for Marrion, who is on stage for most of the performance in what she describes as a "very high energy role." Yo Mustafa will play Walter, Sydnee's colourful and eccentric best friend and upstairs neighbour. Mark, the midwestern businessman who suddenly finds himself in a strange and differ-

ent world, will be played by Kevin Haxell.

The play is directed by Ciril Centinic, produced by Roseann and Anthony Wilshire, and the set is designed by Marge Billesdon. Co-producer Roseann Wilshire describes *Next Time For Real* as "a comedy with a message, the script is irresistible . . . it constantly shows us the wonderfully sublime side of characters who constantly surprise us."

JJ's TYPING SERVICE
York University
136 Farquharson Building
736-2100 ext. 3386

TYPING WORD PROCESSING
TRANSCRIPTION PHOTOCOPYING

Reservations Recommended
Discount on large orders

PORTABLE STEREOS
from \$49 limited quantities

SPEEDY TV
2901 Steeles, just East of Keele
665-6965
Open Mon-Sat 11-8

PREPARE FOR:
**LSAT GMAT
MCAT SAT
GRE DAT**

SPEEDREADING

ADVANCED MEDICAL BOARDS

KAPLAN
STANLEY H. KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF CANADA LTD.
(416) 967-4733

YORK WORK I
Sculptors,
Intermedia and
Performance Artists
from the Faculty of Fine Arts
OCTOBER 16-NOVEMBER 14
ART GALLERY OF YORK UNIVERSITY
ROSS N145
Mon/Tues/Fri 10-5 Wed/Thurs 10-9 Sunday 12-5

Golden Key
Chinese Food
Delivery & Take Out Service
2455 Finch Avenue West
745-6311-2

Free Delivery (\$9.00 and up)

Business Hours:
Every Day From
4:00 p.m. till 1:00 a.m.
(closed Mondays)

GOLDEN KEY RESTAURANT
CASH COUPON
Cash value coupon worth \$1.00 OFF of any order \$10.00 or over.
Worth \$2.00 OFF on order of \$20.00 or over.
Worth \$3.00 OFF any order of \$30.00 or over.
(excluding sales tax)
VALID FROM THURSDAY OCT. 30 TO NOV 6