

Dal Theatre opens happily

by Allison Johnston

The Dalhousie Theatre Program started off with a bang in their first production of the year, *Cloud Nine*. Their second production, *Happy End*, keeps up the momentum.

Happy End is a musical with two groups, gangsters and the Salvation Army, sidestepping

and finally colliding with one another in this amusing and quaint play. The story is set in Chicago in 1919. The fabulous set and costumes work well in transporting us back to that era. (The café girls are an inspired touch.) The use of slides on large panels helps to create the atmosphere for each scene and each song.

The choreography of the scenes

is extremely well thought out and executed, especially the fight scene between Baby Face and the Governor. The actors maintain an incredible energy level throughout the performance. The lively tension contained in the first act is consistent through the entire play.

The leads, Bill Cracker (John Beale) and Lieutenant Lillian

Holiday (Glynis Ranney) both put in terrific performances. Baby Face (Charles Campbell) does a wonderful job portraying the runt of the gang, and the Cop (Brian Heighton) has a small but memorable part. The whole supporting cast turn in good performances which add to the unification of the play. Anyone who has seen *Cloud 9* will recog-

nize the versatility of many of the actors.

The singing is a little weak in places; however, the chorus remains strong. The music rising up from the pit accentuates the atmosphere of the cheerful twenties. Unfortunately, the orchestra occasionally drowns out some of the singers, but this does not take away from the whole.

The opening scene starts off with a forceful political and social comment, but the sombre ending, repeating the message, falls a little short, mostly because it is a surprise. I could not find a strong enough buildup during the course of the play to justify such a finish.

I would definitely recommend that *Happy End* be seen. It is an enjoyable evening of entertainment. Check the calendar page for details.

Happy End
 Lyrics by Bertolt Brecht
 Music by Kurt Weill
 Directed by R.H. Thompson
 Musical Director Pierre Perron
 Original German play by Dorothy Lane

Health gags

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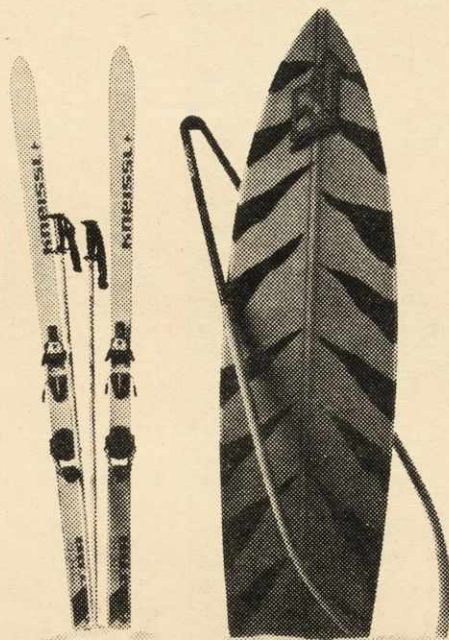
formers I spoke to afterward admitted there was not enough time in the day to do their rehearsals, their schoolwork and their eating and sleeping. They admitted that schoolwork suffered during preparations for the show, and I guess that's why we never see any people from the health professions at the *Gazette*.

Further introductions are made, specifically Claudette Sapp, of Bryony House. Bryony House will be the recipient of the proceeds from *For the Health of It*. It is a transition home for women and their children. Sapp explains that one out of six women is abused by her mate, and that two-thirds of the residents of Bryony House are the children of these battered women. The house offers counselling and support, and most of their operating costs come from private donations. Each year, they handle over 1500 distress calls, and house over 400 women and children!

After the finale, "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," the winners are announced. The Best Dance award was given to Physio, Costumes and Props to Nursing, Most Original Skit to Occupational Therapy, Best Comedy to Pharmacy, and the overall winners, beating out O.T. for the first time in eons, was Physio.

It was a great show, and when it rolls around next year, I urge you to go see it, just for the hell of it. Incidentally, *For the Health of It* raised approximately \$1400 dollars for Bryony House.

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