

entertainment

Wit, slapstick; ; objective satire

By Colin Smith

Fine ensemble acting is the major asset of the Theatre Department's production of Nicolai Erdman's *The Mandate*. Performed at Atkinson Studio by the third year performance students, the semi-mounted play

represented a work-in-progress. Hopefully the production will be brought to full fruition by its arrival downtown at the Fine Arts at Markham studio, where it will be presented February 15 through 17.

As adapted and directed by Alan

Sri Chinmoy in Concert

An evening of spiritual music and meditation

Feb. 17, Sat. 8 p.m.

At Oise Auditorium

252 Bloor St. West

For information call 923-6343

ADMISSION FREE



Athena Voyatzis and Marilyn Norry in *The Mandate*.

Richardson, the play has undergone significant revision from the original text. It's to his credit that the alterations (including the addition of a prologue, two long monologues, a character; the transmogrification of three male roles into female; and the omission of some half-dozen bit parts) enhance rather than detract

from the satiric focus of Erdman's text.

The play itself is a strange one. Erdman, an obscure and heavily banned Russian playwright, found a tone for *The Mandate* that combines the wit of George Bernard Shaw, the cool slapstick of almost any British bedroom farce, and some cruelly objective satire

that vividly outlines his bitter attack on inhumanity, cruelty and false worship of power.

The difficulty of dealing with such multi-tonal material is not lost on the cast. While most of the characters are written and presented as lively, slightly fleshed-out caricatures, the main dramatic and comedic freight is carried by the two major roles—performed here by Alar Aedma and Anne Creighton. This is a touchy and difficult burden to bear: while for the most part the duo succeed, their occasional lapses in purpose unbalances the play, if momentarily.

Overall, though, *The Mandate* succeeds. Thanks to the hard work of Aedma and Creighton, two show-stopping monologues by Suzanne Bennett and Marilyn Norry, and the superb rendering of lively caricatures by the remainder of the cast, the bite of this comedy comes across with professional punch.

WE CAN HELP YOU
PREPARE FOR

OUR
41st
YEAR

MCAT
LSAT · GMAT
GRE · SAT · DAT
NAT'L MED BDS
NAT'L DENT BDS
NURSING BDS
ECFMG
FLEX
VQE



Stanley H.
KAPLAN

EDUCATIONAL CENTER
OF TORONTO LTD.

TEST PREPARATION
SPECIALISTS SINCE 1932

COME VISIT
OUR CENTER

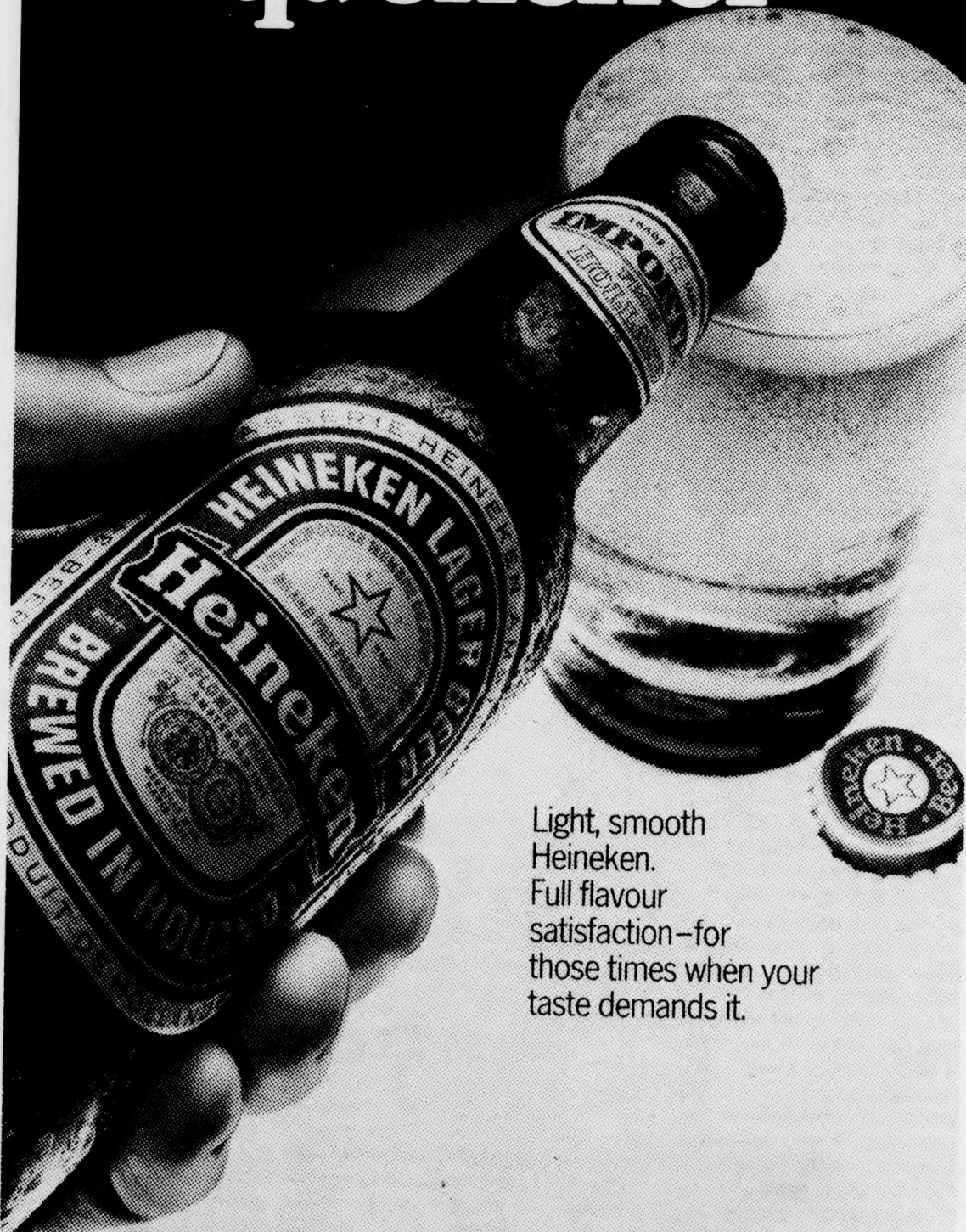
FOR A FREE
DEMONSTRATION
LESSON

Call Days, Eves & Weekends

485-1930

1992 Yonge Street,
Suite 301,
Toronto, Ontario
M4S 1Z7

Taste quencher



Light, smooth
Heineken.
Full flavour
satisfaction—for
those times when your
taste demands it.

It's all a matter of taste.

IMPORTED HEINEKEN—AVAILABLE AT LIQUOR STORES
Represented in Canada by Sainsbury International Agencies Ltd.