

Another fine performance

by Rick Whitby

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Look! Up on the stage! It's a band, no it's a group, no it's Horslips. Strange visitors from a far off country, who disguised as mild mannered musicians continue a never ending battle for rock, boogie and the foot-stompin' way.

Well, they're not that idealistically good, but pretty close. And if you were part of the capacity crowd that saw them last Saturday, you understand my allusion in the first paragraph. The entertainment people I suppose had anticipated the party atmosphere of the evening, used a brilliant idea. They presented both an episode of SUPERMAN and a Chaplin movie during the band's one and only break.

Getting on to Horslips, most of all the superlatives have been used to describe them in the last couple of weeks. Their music is probably the best heard at Dalhousie this year in the Rock genre, and is also

probably the best in Halifax in the last few months, if not ever. It can be soft, lilting and exciting to the point where you have trouble sitting still even if you want to. They have tapped the well of Irish folk music, added a little boogie and have come up with a thoroughly enjoyable sound that is both exciting and unique in popular music. This uniqueness is something sorely needed today. There are jazz-rock, classical-rock, country-rock, and any number of other categories all of which have been to some extent beaten into the ground in the last few years. It seems that when a certain style becomes popular there is a "gold" rush to cash in on the popularity of that sound. Just look at Bowie and the glitter phenomena. So it is a refreshing experience to see a band such as Horslips who can add a new dimension to an otherwise mundane selection of music in this city.

The idea to have the show in the McInnes Room was an excellent one. The atmosphere of looseness created by having people sit at table and chairs being able to talk



Photo by: Ken Lee

and drink at their leisure is a far cry from the scene at the Cohn last week where many people missed half of the concert because of the Cohn's antiquated seating policies, and many others wished they could have had a drink and dance. Well drink and dance they did last Saturday though little dance space was available, it presented a minor obstacle to the hundred or so people who felt their "feets do their stuff."

Suggestions? I have a few to make and they are easy to list. To the band all I have to say is don't get mixed up in the usual business bullshit and keep enjoying themselves, it is infectious. To the entertainment office, I suggest that they keep pulling rabbits like this out of their hat and leave a little more room to shake that thing. To the students, I say that if Horslips returns to Halifax, get your tickets early. By the way for those of you that are doing some travelling soon, they are doing two days in Newfoundland and then a show at the Bitter End in New York City.

entertainment supplement

Unique production planned

by Sue Monaghan

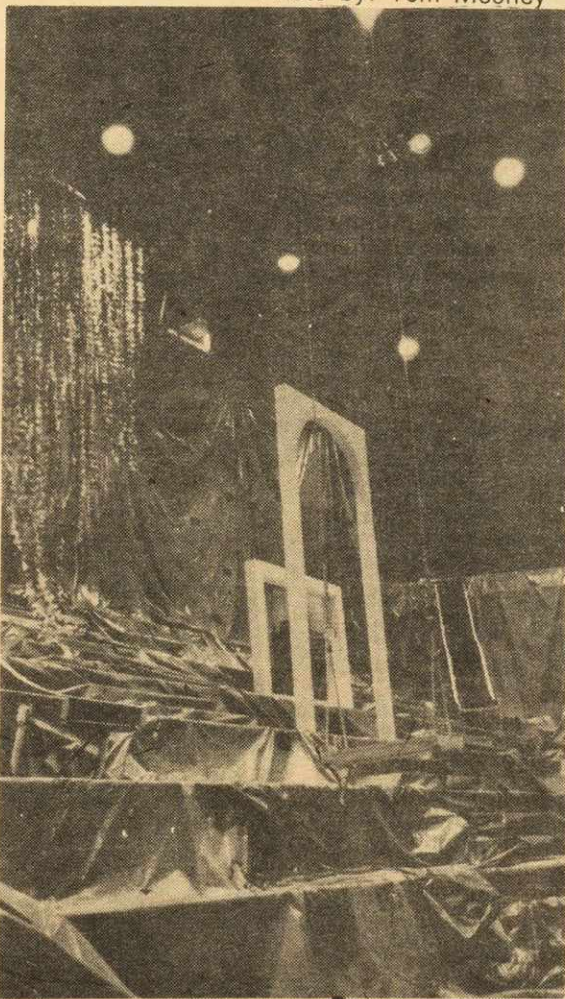
From December 5th to 10th the Dal Theatre Department will be presenting the play "Insect Comedy". Consisting of 51 characters mainly "ants", "moths", "butterflies", and "grasshoppers", (and a few humans), it will no doubt be a unique theatre experience.

In addition, it constitutes an experiment in scenography and design of enough significance to command the attention of top-ranking individuals of the North American theatre world.

As explained by Prof. Lionel Lawrence, the head of the Theatre department, the Fine Arts faculty like any other university, has the function of experimenting with new ideas and concepts. For "Insect Comedy" a new revolving auditorium has been built which will be used in this and future productions.

This type of stage machinery has been used before in Europe, but in the case of the Dalhousie production it is located indoors--a first, and will be used to rotate the audience in the center of the stage rather than the characters or scenery--which has

Photo by: Tom Mooney



The set, then, will surround the audience, who will be treated to the sight of "insects" poking their noses out of walls and climbing the catwalks high above their heads.

Peter Perina, Dal Theatre Dept. scenographer, stresses that the Comedy is not an attempt at an extravaganza. All use of space in the Dunn Theatre will be "dramatically justified". He views the Arts Center as being "...the most interesting Theatre space in North America. The entire space is interrelated, offering exposure to music, art, theatre and movies".

Other sections of the Fine Arts are involved in the comedy. Professor Steve Tittle of the Music Department has composed the music, and Ms. Pat Richards, instructor of Modern Dance at Dal, the choreography. In addition costume designer Mr. R. Doyle has joined the Theatre Department and is designing the costumes for Insect Comedy. Professor Lawrence describes him as one of the three top Canadian professional designers. His most recent achievement is the restor-

ation of all costumes for the Fort Louisbourg reconstruction.



The revolving theatre will accommodate 80 people and tickets for the 6 performances are understandably going fast. Those who wish to witness a Theatre first may obtain their tickets (free of charge) at the Arts Center box office.