

A faery tale

Fiction by Sandy MacKay

"Once upon a time, a long," said the old man, because that is how he always started his faery tales, "a long, long time ago lived a sad sad king. He had a golden crown, a big castle and many loyal subjects who loved him

dearly, for he was an honest and good king. He was the kind of king that we see very little of today. But the king was a sad, sad king, despite his crown and his castle and all of his loyal loving subjects."

The children all shouted "Why? Why was he so sad?"

The old man looked thought-

ful, and stroked his long grey beard and said, "Indeed children, he was sad for the same reason many are sad. He was sad because he couldn't find a queen to love. And that is the reason most often that people are sad, because of love. The king travelled extensively in his kingdom to try and find a woman he could love forever. And, of course, he met many beautiful people. He met short women and tall women, fat women and thin women, women with buck teeth and women with knobby knees and one woman with a wart on her bum and red-haired women and old women and bald women and women with moustaches. The king loved

them all for their particular beauty, but he didn't find that one

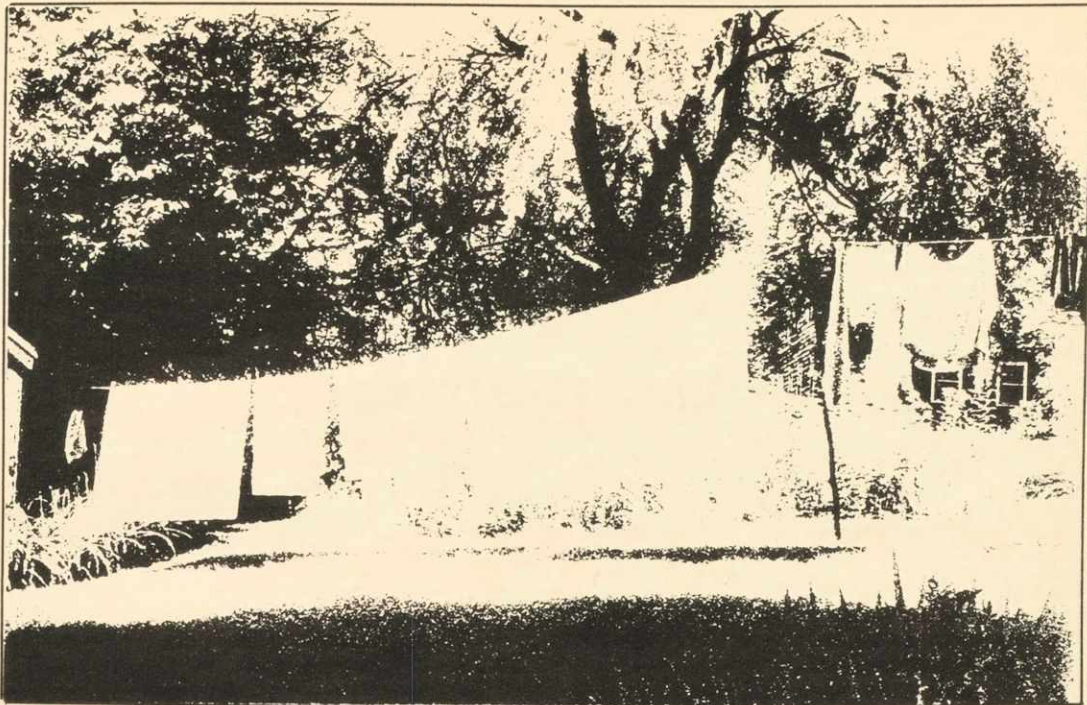


Photo: Janet Nicol

special woman with the hidden quality he so desired.

But, one day, he thought that he had finally met her. She was a fat woman with hairy arms and 6 toes on her right foot and she couldn't cook a bean (actually, she could cook like the dickens, but she didn't tell the king that). She was beautiful.

The king approached her and said 'Lady, you are the fairest creature in all of the land. I have

searched extensively throughout my kingdom to find one such as you. You glow with an inner

... loved them all for their particular beauty

beauty and peacefulness that I have searched for my whole life. Will you condescend to marry this humble king?"

She said simply, 'Nope. You'd probably make me clean that whole damned castle, and besides, I'm already in love with Eric the swineherd who lives next door. He never shaves and he doesn't have a crown, or even any money, but he is the man for me. Sorry your kingship.'

The king said 'OK g'bye' and rode back to his castle where he wrote silly poetry for the rest of his life.

from the "This ain't no disco" dept.

de Burgh Met's big act

by Scott Neily

The Metro Centre, Halifax's outlet for big entertainment acts, had a rather lean year in 1988. Ticket sales were not spectacular and the number and variety of big acts was far from great. However, 1989 is another story. This year promises to be one of the best for the Metro Centre for all types of entertainment, not just music.

Upcoming acts include the CKDU-sponsored Metallica concert on April 4. Sharon, Lois and Bram's Elephant Show sold out the first run, prompting the Metro Centre to hold another on April 17, at 4:30pm and 7:00pm. Also upcoming is a garden and patio show on April 22 & 23 and a trade show for kids and their parents, featuring an indoor midway, on April 29 & 30. Randy Travis, Julio Iglesias and Poison are still tentative acts but international recording artist Roger Whittaker has finally been confirmed for May 26. The summer, of course, will see the return of the Tattoo (June 28-July 4), and last but not least, Halifax and the Metro Centre will play host to the 1990 World Figure Skating Championships in March. For a preview, watch the championships that are happening now in Paris — Halifax's will be better. Now, a quick look at two acts that have already played the Metro Centre this year.

Cheap Trick, a band with a long history and an even longer string of hits, recently (Feb. 7th) played to a good crowd of 6,000 plus.

Although the show was a tad on the short side, both opening act Eddie Money and the lead act Cheap Trick put on excellent performances. Indeed, showmanship considered, it was a bit difficult to tell who really was the showcase act. In addition to songs from their latest album, *Lap of Luxury*, Cheap Trick also played a number of their older hits, including the tunes "Surrender", "I Want You To Want Me" and "Dream Police".

While their latest record has had three big singles, including the number one hit "The Flame", the band thinks the best is yet to come. "We haven't made our best album yet," said guitarist Rick Nielsen. "We'd hate to think the

best is already done, then we'd have nothing to look forward to." Drummer Bun E. Carlos, a bit of a perfectionist, agreed with Rick. "Everytime you hear your album, you wish you'd done something different. It's a frustrating experience listening to yourself."

Chris de Burgh, a long-time favourite performer, played February 21st at the Metro Centre, packing in a 7,000 plus crowd. Long known for his storytelling style of music, the concert showcased songs from his new, more contemporary album *Flying Colours*, in addition to featuring a good number of tunes from his earlier works.

British band Black, known for their hit single "Everything's

Coming Up Roses", opened the evening with a selection of mostly mellow tunes from their latest album *It's A Wonderful Life*. Performing for the first time in Canada, the band's opening night problems were compounded by the fact that their music is unfortunately not well known. This resulted in a lacklustre audience response from what was an otherwise fine performance.

de Burgh guaranteed a good reaction anytime, kicked off the evening with "Last Night", a tune from his multi-platinum *Into the Night* album. Carefully spacing his hits and fan favourites between his newer material, de Burgh created a concert that flowed smoothly from beginning to end. Though the concert was two hours long and very satisfying, most fans could have easily handled another hour.

Highlights of the night included a beautiful acoustic guitar version of "A Spaceman Comes Travelling", a jazzed up "Patricia the Stripper", an emotional "Lady in Red" and a chilling rendition of his first big hit, "Spanish Train."

After two resounding encores, de Burgh ended the concert, his first here since the summer of '87, on a positive note, promising that he will be back soon. With any luck, Chris de Burgh fans will not have to wait another two years to see him live. But, if it takes that long, it is sure to be worth the wait.

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