

## Mixed Grill is 'charmingly satiric'

By DEBORAH GENEAU  
Brunswickan Staff

The Comedy Asylum is celebrating New Brunswick's 200 Birthday in a big way with a winter tour of their original music revue, "Maritime Mixed Grill", described as a "smiling salute to downhome New Brunswick," during Dinner Theatre at the Wandlyn.

According to Marshall Button the company's Artistic Director, "With Maritime Mixed Grill we hope to share an affectionate chuckle with fellow Maritimers about our own identity, and 1984, New Brunswick's Bicentennial year, seems a most appropriate time to do it."

"Maritime Mixed Grill" is a charmingly satiric and wonderfully funny look at life in New Brunswick where "nobody is sacred and no one is spared." Jenny Munday, Company

Manager, says "We firmly believe that the highest form of flattery is laughter. What better way to complement your home than to poke fun at it?"

What better way, indeed? And the Comedy Asylum pulls it off remarkably. The action takes place in the Maritime Mixed Grill Comedy and Dance Lounge in Calgary, "southern

Alberta's leader in laughter and home of the province's second largest mirror ball!" They also boast of "the best

hot chicken sandwiches this side of St. Lenard."

"Mixed Grill" is exactly that. It is a medley of music and skits animating

characters all Maritimers can readily recognize. Small, backwoods towns and the people who live there are the same everywhere. The Comedy Asylum captures this universality of human

nature with precision and hilarity.

The highlights of "Maritime Mixed Grill" include a musical number entitled "Dear Ottawa" - a blatant request for aid to New Brunswick's ailing economic situation. The Comedy Asylum presents a lovely caricature of British attitudes toward Canada and the Maritimes with Lord and Lady Mumquiff, who envision procupine hunts as the provincial sport.

A boxing match between "Tricky Dicky" Hatfield and Dougie Young (who is forever getting caught with his foot in his mouth) is a satire on N.B. politics. Atlantic television is attacked with The Asylum's version of Dave Wrong and the The Wrong Time.

Button portrays a terrifically phoney Lounge entertainer who calls himself Johnny Paystub. Paystub is a horrible dresser (in fact, he owns the world's ugliest tie) and a horrible singer of stolen songs but a truly memorable character.

Button steals the show with his monologue of a French mill worker whose philosophy of life is "go to school, get a trade, take a drink, don't work too hard, take your time, and (most importantly) take a break."

Munday and Button do an excellent imitation of Rene Levesque. David Peterson and Janice Hansen are the musically inclined half of the Asylum's cast. Peterson has a lively stage presence and an insatiable thirst for Alpine. Hansen plays an impressive American - loud, overbearing and exaggerated.

The show is loosely connected with a barrage of

"Little Known Facts About New Brunswick," and reported sightings of Maritime ghosts and sea monsters. "Believe it or not..."

For an evening of wine and dining the Wandlyn provides an extensive and delicious buffet. The Comedy Asylum provides the laughter and instills a feeling of close contact and good will with the audience. These characters are loveable on and off the stage. Their presence is not limited to the platform with the props but warmly greets you as you walk in the door. In short, these guys are great.

## Changing Spaces at Art Centre

Paul Mathieson's *Changing Spaces* exhibition at the UNB Art Centre reveals an artist with very literary style. The twelve large acrylic canvases are hard-edge but are flat and stylized, with decorative borders and patterned surfaces. The familiar symbols of people, trees, houses, clouds become part of the flat pattern. The artist's message is quite explicit. He is concerned with the environment, whether the cataclysms of nature or the tampering of man. Many of the paintings include a title written on the canvas giving an immediate clue to Mathieson's message.

The overall impression of the exhibit is one of bright colours and patterns, although some of the most arresting paintings are almost monochromes with strong tonal variations.

PAUL MATHIESON is the art teacher at Simons High

School in Saint John. He was born in England in 1949; and studied in England and the United States and moved to Saint John in 1975.

Since then his work has been included in several group exhibitions and he has had one and two-man shows at the New Brunswick Museum, the Windrush Gallery and the Playhouse. The current exhibition was organized to tour by the New Brunswick Museum. It was shown at Sunbury Shores in St. Andrews in January. It remains at the UNB Art Centre until the end of February.

Two other exhibitions are also on display at the Art Centre for February - Ron Milton's *Fossil Fish* and Elke Danziger's *Experiments in Clay*.

The Art Centre is open from 10 to 5 Monday to Friday and from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

## New film series on the go

By ROD MACDONALD  
Brunswickan Staff

On Monday, Feb. 6th Campus Films presented the film classic *Casablanca* starring Ingrid Bergman, Humphrey Bogart and Peter Lorre. Monday Feb. 13th saw the rerun of *Sam Spade* in the Maltese Falcon, another popular Bogart film.

These events marked the debut of a new film series to run to the end of March.

Doug MacDonald, coordinator of the series views Campus Films as a service designed to reflect the entertainment desires of students and others. Essentially, this means input pertaining to future films is welcome.

Following the mid-term break Campus Films will present *The Last Detail* starring Jack Nicholson.

Doug reminds everyone to stop by after the films and offer any suggestions for the future.

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## Artists, Graser, Burns giving talks today

Local artist Toby Graser and Rick Burns will be giving gallery talks on their current exhibits at the Fredericton National Exhibition Centre on Friday, February 17 at 12:30 p.m. Toby's exhibit entitled "Cosmos" is a series of 16 abstract acrylics on canvas. Rick Burns' exhibit, "In-

stallation" is a series of large constructions made from oriental paper, pine and cotton cord. Both artists will discuss the conception of their works as well as means of execution and will be pleased to answer questions. Admission is free. All are welcome to attend.