

DRAMA!

The UNB Drama Society has managed to communicate the incoherent in the Theatre of the Absurd again this fall.

Their productions of *The Hole* by N. F. Simpson and *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco were very good. The Society is continuing the trend they began last year of producing topical and contemporary plays to provoke questions and comments from the audience and to show the theatre goers what is going on in modern and experimental drama.

People can not communicate and in attempting to, they utter banalities. Both *The Hole* and *The Bald Soprano* from the Theatre of the Absurd were admirable in presenting their themes to the audience.

Sure of the absurdity of the plays, the audience was still uncertain whether they should laugh at the confused and meaningless speeches of the actors or not.

Directed by Robert Fraser, post graduate English student, *The Hole* is a general comment on modern morality conventions. *The Bald Soprano* was directed by Graham Whitehead, also of the English department. It is a comment on the vapid ethos of English suburban life.

Mr. Fraser as director, made a sincere attempt in trying to give the audience a visionary illusion that all is one. He seemed to stress parts of the play, particularly the aquarium creed instead of concentrating on the overall effect.

Set on a prosperous and busy London Street, the hole, an excavation in the street was the centre of attention. Encamped beside the hole, forming the nucleus of a queue, as he described himself was an old man. Derek Hamilton, as the aged visionary kept the audience tuned to his seer remarks from the beginning to the curtain of the play. His quavery, cracking, seventy year old's voice as he peered down the hole saying, "Any time now," won the audience. He seemed somewhat too polished and occasionally was guilty of over-acting at times, however.

Passerbys stopped to give their opinions on the purpose of the hole. Art Clogg as Endo had good contact with the audience perhaps the best in the play. Chris Brittain as Soma had a tremendous voice but misused it. He lacked expression and relied on a monotone. David Poirier, a first year student, unfortunately did not have the command of his role and the character he attempted to portray.

Nikki Chabot as Mrs. Ecto and Ann MacLeod as Mrs. Meso were two dowdy house wives who added to the general irrationality of the conversation. Their faded appearance and whining voices pointed to the future of meaninglessness. Miss MacLeod gave a very convincing portrayal while Miss Chabot was appreciating in her characterization.

Terry Thomas as the workman made his line long stage appearance to give the obvious solution to the debate but he was unable to jar the other characters to reality.

The second half of the evening could very well have been called "The Graham Whitehead Hour". Mr. Whitehead's direction was very polished and his whole creation of *The Bald Soprano* was excellent. It must be kept in mind that Mr. Whitehead was working with an experienced cast who understood and appreciated his direction. Without a cast such as he had to work with it would be difficult to tell what might have happened.

Set in a proper and respectable suburb of London, Mr. and Mrs. Smith are expecting the arrival of their guests for the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Martin. David Likely and Geoffrey Eathorne as Mr. Smith and Mr. Martin respectively could be placed on balance scales with Mr. Eathorne's portrayal getting the extra ounce. Both are very apt and capable actors. They understood their roles and made it clear to the audience who they were.

Barbara Ramsay and Wanda Glass, a newcomer to the UNB Drama Society were Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Smith respectively. Both gave brilliant performances. Miss Ramsay, however, probably because of past experiences had that bit of extra polish that is necessary when acting opposite two such leads. Miss Glass, with more experience shows great promise.

Gordon Cunningham, as the Fire Chief managed to keep tempo with the other actors very well. Less experienced than the other four, his performance was well directed. He drew laughter from the audience for his pomposity and his attempts to draw the other characters back to reality.

Mary the Maid, Barbara Williams was the fifth member of the cast and a first year student. She gave a delightful performance. Her timing was good and her projection excellent. She was a perfect maid for Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

Credit is due to the technical aspects of the productions. The lighting for *The Hole* was especially good as were the sound effects. The sets designed by Alvin Shaw were simple and in that respect good, but in *The Bald Soprano*, chairs alone would have been just as effective.

by SHARON WYMAN



"... and in the name of Gaiavani — Amen." This was the closing prayer of *The Hole*, one of the two Theatre of the Absurd plays presented at the Fredericton Playhouse last week by the UNB Drama Society.

Left to right, Chris Brittain as Soma, David Poirier as Cerebro, Nikki Chabot as Mrs. Ecto, Ann MacLeod as Mrs. Meso and Derek Hamilton as the visionary. Art Clogg as Endo was off stage at the time.

Floating College Tours World

Chapman College, Orange, California, began the second academic year of its Seven Seas Division of International Education on October 20 aboard its new floating campus, the S.S. Ryndam.

Aboard are 430 undergraduate and graduate level students and a distinguished supporting faculty of 70. In addition,

lecturers and students from institutions of higher learning will meet with the travellers in the ports of call.

The fall semester itinerary will take the floating college on a 107 day semester at sea where regular college classes meet six days each week. In-port activities related to the subject taught aboard ship will

originate in port cities all over the world.

Shipboard facilities include 14 classrooms, a modern science laboratory, an oceanography laboratory, an especially selected library, a 208-seat theatre, modern audio-visual equipment and a completely staffed hospital.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Canada's First Bank

invites graduating seniors in Arts, Business and other faculties interested in new challenges in banking to meet its campus representative on —

MON., NOV. 14, 1966

Learn what the Bank of Montreal can offer you

Interviews may be arranged through your Placement Office



DIAMOND TAXI

24 HR. SERVICE

Phone 475-3335

We try our best to satisfy our customers