

Encore Dal radio theatre

by J.L. Round

The voice: "For me the voice remains the purest form of theatrical experience."

The ear: This statement, by Michael Wile, reflects very much the creed of Dalhousie's dramatic radio group, **Theatre of the Ear**.

Wile, CKDU's energetic station manager, organized **Theatre of the Ear** originally as a one-shot prospect with several members of Dal's theatre department. From this the group came to perform on a regular basis for most of the first year-and-a-half of their existence.

Their success as a group so far has been seen "more in personal terms rather than public reaction," Wile said, explaining that it is hard to gather any valid statistics for a project of this nature. "However, we do have a small fan club," he confided with an enigmatic grin.

Wile, Ferne Downey, Mary-Ellen Watt, Weldon Bona, Francis MacLeod, Sherwood Fleming, Simone and Georgia George, the group's original members, produced the show on a small grant from the Student Union. Early productions of note included a Kabuki play, **The Monstrous Spider**, a form of drama dating from the 17th century, and **The Bald Soprano**, recorded live in a studio setting. "The live recording went over very well and it is something we are looking forward to doing again," Wile noted.

Lately, **Theatre of the Ear** has not been active. This is due partly to the restrictive nature of Wile's new time commitments as station manager. Projects for the coming season have been planned, however, and



Some members of Dal's unique dramatic radio group Theatre of the Ear. Left to right—Weldon Bona, Gerrard Morrison, Michael Wile, Ferne Downey, Mary-Ellen Watt.

auditions will be held. Speculating about upcoming productions Wile touched upon a wide variety of projects including **The Integrators**, a modern American play with racial prejudice as its theme, a two-part reading of Coleridge's **The Rhyme Of The Ancient Mariner**, Edgar

Allen Poe's **The Black Cat**, and an original work by Charles Gosling, formerly of the Dal Theatre Department, tentatively titled "**The Art Of A Prelude**."

People are invited to come up and audition for the group. "A sincere interest is more important than

experience. And we do welcome suggestions and original scripts in particular," Wile said, yet stressed that, "as this is an aural medium some understanding of voice control is desirable."

Which brings us back to where we began: the voice and the ear.

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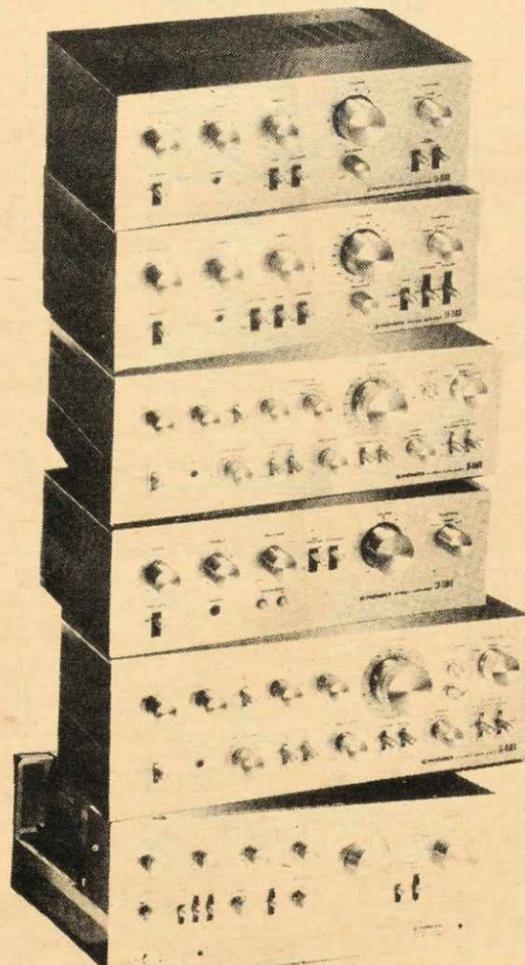
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