

ARTS



1906: a mysterious era chock full of a romance and style not found today.

Larger than life stories

Ragtime
Capital Square

review by J.M.

Ragtime is a movie for every man who ever fell in love with a woman for her beauty. It is love and hate. Bigotry and integrity. Intelligence and stupidity. Full of oxymorons. Sham and reality.

Saturday night alone. I'd fallen in love with a woman for her beauty.

Define film as the least dangerous kind of voyeurism. We watch ourselves in others. In *Ragtime* fantasies unfold to epic conclusions while we sit safe in our seats. The negro, resenting a slur upon his honor, forces an impossible confrontation. The impoverished Jew becomes movie mogul. And the haunting beauty of Evelyn Nesbit (Elizabeth McGovern) sends one man to the grave, one to the asylum and another to distraction. The younger brother is stood up by the most beautiful woman of his day. I'd been stood up by a not plain Jane.

The catharsis was unexpected but not unwelcome.

Milos Forman (*One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*) has skillfully visualized *Ragtime* from the novel by E. L. Doctorow. What has emerged is delicately woven tapestry of an age and era gone by. Pre-First War America breathes of lives lived in passion and romance. These larger-than-life stories of such bizarre nature never have, nor ever could, be.

Wonderful theory but the mote in the camera's eye is that *Ragtime* chronicles essentially true events. These people actually lived. To be sure, some license was taken in weaving their lives together but if they never met in person they met in the minds of their day to create a time that will never be recreated.

Someone suggested to me that such romance and style is not found today. That our public figures contain no mystery. We know and see it all. In a fold-out or on the screen. Brooke Shields sells jeans while



by Geoffrey Jackson

I always find it ironic that university life offers so little time to read. Between the required reading of texts and the sundry work of a student there seems little time left over to sink your teeth into some meaty novel.

Today I offer a solution for those who love a good read but have not the time to pursue their passion: *Silken Eyes - and Other Stories* by Francoise Sagan. This collection of succinct short stories is just the thing to cart about campus. Each story takes ten or fifteen minutes to read, providing wit, style, and entertainment.

Sagan is a contemporary French writer who clearly enjoys the intricacies and paradoxes of human psychology. The recurring theme that runs through these stories is that of sudden revelation. In the title story, "Silken Eyes", a husband, by chance, sees his wife's hand palm to palm with that of his friend's. In another story a woman finds a strange watch upon her husband's night table. Such apparently

trivial incidents serve as the key hinges to these precisely-set tales.

Sagan excels at describing the elegant haunts of the chic and mysterious. So fine is her ability to create that French critics refer glibly to her world as "Saganland", a place where the apertifs are taken for granted.

What a relief these clear and lucid stories would be for the English major bogged down in the mire of some required Victorian novel. One tale, "The Seven O'clock Fix" is a prime example. Over the course of four pages Sagan is able to perfectly illustrate a man's character with a few sharp strokes. She introduces him as, "Dick Leighton, one of the best playwrights of the day - or at least considered to be so -". In that one sentence she has managed to convey Leighton's eminence and his insecurity all at once. She manages to show us his artistic perfectionism as well as his practical sense. Carefully she sketches this man's integrity and then scuttles it with a sharp, ironical twist at the end. The craftsmanship to be found here is impressive. Each story, like this one, functions with the delicate precision of an antique music box.

All eighteen stories take up a mere 136 pages, creating a slim, elegant Penguin volume that sells for \$2.25. Such a lightweight book is just the thing to tuck into your bookbag; to be brought out and read over a hot cup of java. I am sure you will find that this book clearly illustrates just how little quantity has to do with quality.

Evelyn Nesbit is "elevated" to the top of a building as Psyche.

True ideas in some ways - no two times are ever the same. But *Ragtime* would hardly be the moving film it is if the audience could not identify.

For those who dare, life, now, as then, is still full of mystery; is still lived from the heart. Even though the ends of all are far

from ideal the emotions that drove them to the extreme were. Life, lived from the heart, even when misdirected, is better than life lived with no heart at all.

Soothing comfort for any man who ever fell in love with a woman for her beauty and lives every day in danger of doing so again.

PANTAGES REBORN!

POSH OLD THEATRE RETURNS TO EDMONTON

BOFFO BUFFOONERIES

LOUD CHORTLES HEARD FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

A DEFINITIVE PERFORMANCE OF "LE DAME EAU CAMELIUS"

THRILL TO THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY: COOGAN VS. BRUTUS THE KILLER FLEA

CORN MARKET CORNERED

FISH EYEBROWS ON THE MENU

Pantages Presents
Theatre Network
Until January 31

review by Jens Andersen

After a headline like that, who needs a review? Suffice it to say, *Pantages Presents* is vaudeville at its wonderful worst: bad jokes, awful jokes, execrable jokes, hammy acting, schlocky music, cheesecake, and sentimentality as cloying as 45 gallons of heavy cream.

I offer just one specimen of the play's humor:

Belle Oliver: (snootily) Smart girls buy their clothes at Sak's.

Winowna Winters: (knowingly) Smart girls don't buy their clothes.

If you can't wait for the Med Show, this one is for you.

Local Recreation

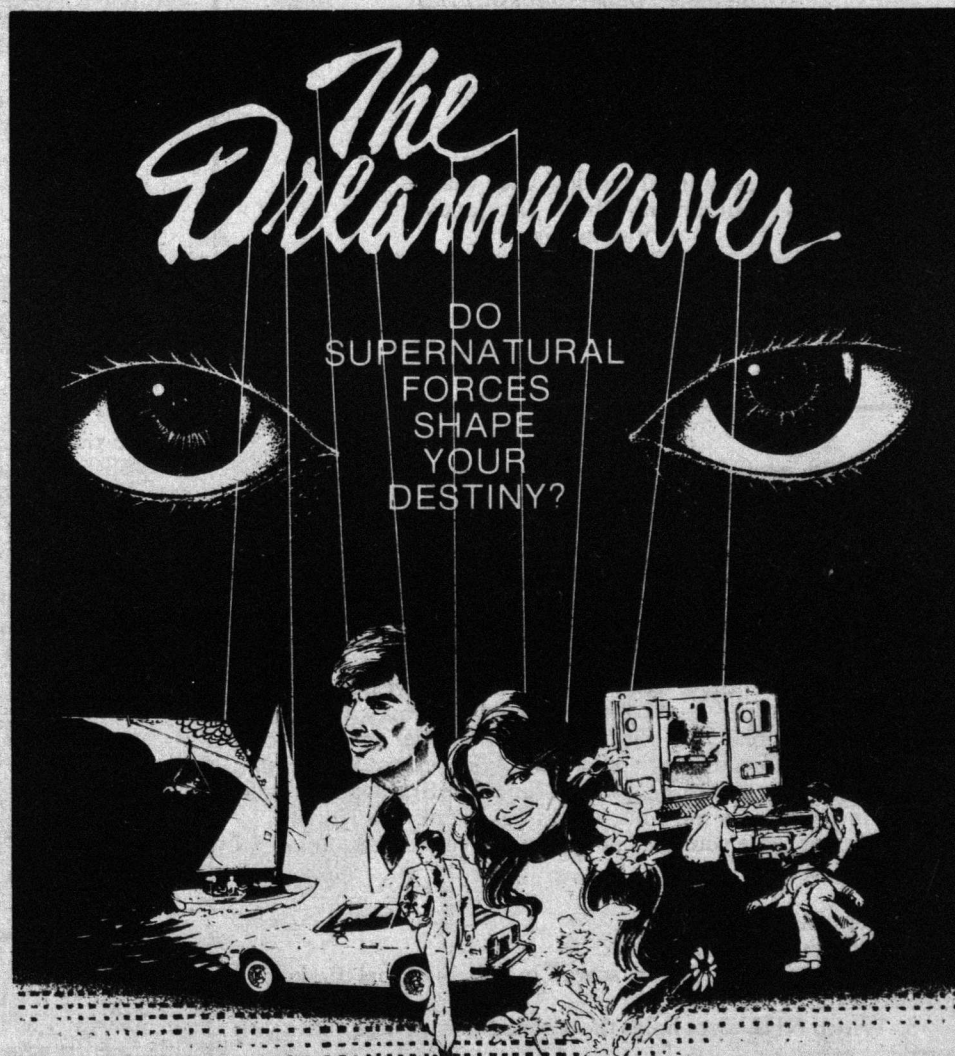
by Alex MacDonald
Entertainment Director

This weekend in Dinwoodie, Sat. Jan. 23 we have the band Footloose. This is a new line-up which includes Doug Riley replacing Tim Finn on vocals and a new drummer Blainey Kraus. With the introduction of these new members the band is striving for a punchier sound, with emphasis still on strong melodic interpretations of material, but with a little harder edge. The band has also been getting an excellent response to their new material. They are in the process of recording a second album and will be playing some of their newer stuff on Saturday.

In RATT there is a hodgepodge of things happening. On Wednesday there will be the Monday Night Big Band. This is the University Band that rehearses on Monday nights and should not be confused with the Tuesday Night Band which rehearses....

On Thursday and Saturday we are showcasing a new line-up of a band I have previously used in RATT and Dinwoodie in the fall term. Informer will inform us of the age of information musically and lyrically. The music is of a European texture: powerful yet not overdriven. The sound is flavored with strong keyboards and a tight rhythmic foundation that will influence your mind and body with tempos that range from medium to fast (very danceable). Members of this group have played with such bands at The O-Zones, Spunk, Shock Zone, TBA, Shifter and the Smarties. If you are interested, come to RATT.

On Friday there will be a new band filled with energy and a rougher rockier edge but still very new-wave: The Backstreet Brats.



Place: S.U.B. THEATRE
Dates: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1982
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1982
Times: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$3.00 at the door
\$2.50 each for group rates
Tickets Available At The Student's Union Box Office

MUSIC BY THE BEATLES, JOHN DENVER, RITA COOLIDGE, KANSAS, STYX AND OTHERS
BLENDED WITH 2,000 VISUALS OF BREATH-TAKING PHOTOGRAPHY.
SHOWN ON 3 LARGE SCREENS FROM 14 COMPUTERIZED PROJECTORS.
A UNIQUE 75-MINUTE ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.
A PARAGON PRODUCTION PRESENTED THROUGH CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST