

ARTS

Opera a triumph

Puritans anything but dull

Puritanical sets, puritanical costumes, and a very simple plot might make for dull opera. BUT, dull opera, Bellini's "I Puritani" is certainly NOT. In fact, the simplicity of these operatic trappings tends more to prove without question the colourful and rich potential of the music when well executed as it was in Saturday night's performance.

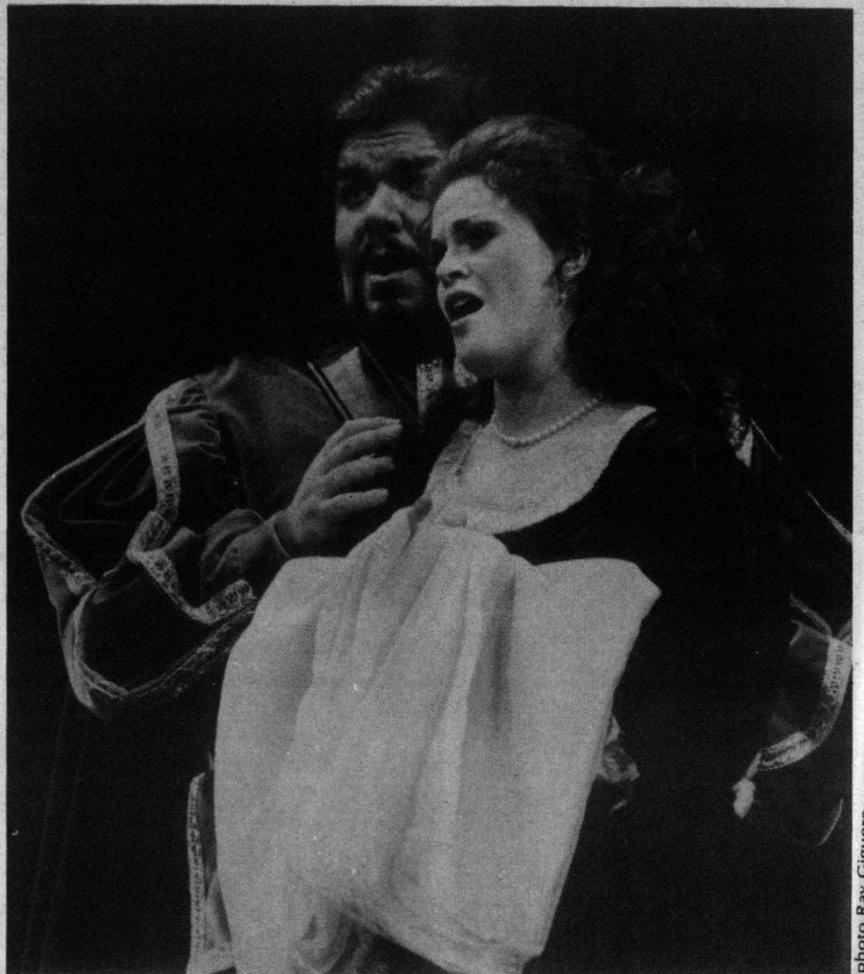
The setting of the opera is England during the Civil War in the Seventeenth Century and concerns the love of Elvira (June Anderson), daughter of a Roundhead commander, and Arturo (Cesar-Antonio Suarez), a staunch Royalist. The other members of the central quartet are Riccardo (Ryan Edwards), a Puritan Colonel, and Giorgio (Dimitri Kavrakos), another Puritan and Elvira's uncle.

Having, on his wedding day, aided the escape of Charles I's widow, Enrichetta, from her Puritan captors, Arturo is condemned to death. With Elvira maddened by what she thinks is a lover's betrayal, Giorgio convinces Riccardo to save Arturo. In the

last Act, Elvira and Arturo's reunion, the defeat of the Royalists and Arturo's subsequent pardon produce an uncommon operatic event — a happy ending.

The happiness is not only in the plot, though, for the opera is a treat to listen to, without a musically dull moment. The work is difficult for even the best singers, but the EOS cast meets the challenge. June Anderson proves herself a truly superb soprano with her rich and enchanting treatment of a very demanding role. Her male associates are nothing spectacular, but they do justice to the incredible music made all the more difficult by the absence of fancy scenery and complicated action.

This Edmonton Opera performance, which continues at the Jubilee Auditorium Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., is the Canadian premiere of "I Puritani." It can only be hoped that with so successful a precedent, Canadian opera companies will no longer shy away from so challenging, but so rewarding a work.



Dmitri Kavrakos and June Anderson in the Edmonton Opera Society presentation of *I Puritani*

Photo: Ray Ciguere

MARCH tues 29

9 WINNER
ACADEMY AWARDS

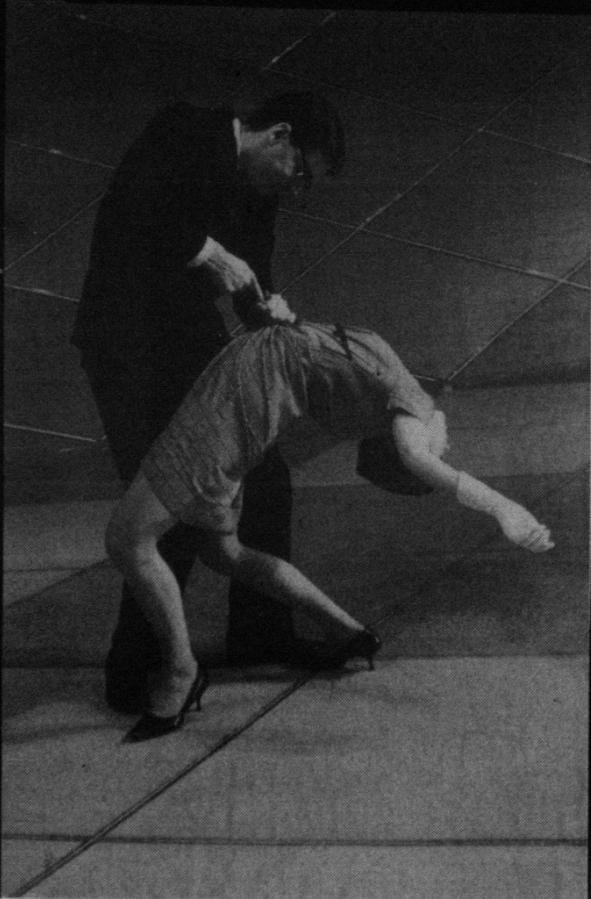
Including **BEST PICTURE**

- BEST DIRECTOR — Mark Rydell
- BEST ACTOR — Henry Fonda
- BEST ACTRESS — Katharine Hepburn
- BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS — Jane Fonda



Tuesday - 8:00 pm. - **ON GOLDEN POND** - 1982, USA, 109 min. Dir: Mark Rydell Cast: Henry Fonda, Katherine Hepburn, Jane Fonda, Doug McKeon, Dabney Coleman and William Lanteau. **Parental Guidance.**

OMNIBUS



Thursday, May 12
Friday, May 13
Saturday, May 14

8 PM

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Third World Film Festival eventful

The Third World Film Festival this past weekend was an artistic point of interest as well as an educational experience.

Saturday's *Journey of Fabio Pacchioni* was the story of an Italian theatre director who set up a radical theatre in Ecuador. The theatre troupe adapts its material to the peasant audience it plays to. As the brochure stated, "The theatre has become more than entertainment, it has become social reality."

Some of the other films were very good examples of the art of documentary. *To Sing Our Own Song* was a very interesting analysis of the current social and political situation in the Phillipines.

Back to Kampuchea was a personal documentary account of a return to the Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) by an ex-refugee who has been exiled in New York. He comments on the destruction of a once-beautiful nation by three repressive dictatorships in succession.

These films have great verisimilitude, and were intriguing works of art as well as documents.

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(owner's birthday)

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• Travel • Music • Leatherbound Books • Religion •