

Three dead guys

By ELLEN REYNOLDS

What do Jesus Christ, Galileo and Oscar Wilde have in common? The answer is brought to the stage of the Cunard Street Theatre where Newfoundland's Steventown Festival is presenting *Unholy Trinity*.

John Ralston is Jesus Christ and Edward Atienza is Galileo. Maxim Mazumdar, who plays Oscar Wilde, also the artistic director, combining into one the songs and three plays of Eric Bentley.

This trinity of plays and actors parallel the lives of three heroes in history. The setting and reasons are different but all three are destroyed before being finally accepted. The theme is philosophical but not existential since the characters' fate do not determine their own fate. The outside force in Galileo's case is the Church, for Wilde it's Victorian society and for Christ it's the Romans.

The play is in four stages: 1) New views and philosophies, 2) Revolutions, 3) Investigations 4) Recantation. The characters all go through the first stage, then the next and while each character plays his major role, the other two become minor characters in his story. This style demands many quick character changes which the actors manage well but are sometimes confusing. Costume changes, usually done on

stage, are simple and effective. The character is transformed with the addition or subtraction of a hat or scarf.

Each actor goes through a broad range of emotions — from the excitement of their new ideas and views, passionately presenting each case as they are investigated and finally the anguish and resolve of recantment.

John Ralston is at his best as the young Christ in the first two stages of the play while Edward Atienza's Galileo is most convincing in his desperate plea to the church and finally as a broken old man. Of all three actors, Maxim Muzumdar's role as the poetically evasive Oscar Wilde is the most convincing memorable.

Because this is a play of dialogue, not action, the set is of little importance. It is simply black with several chairs and a backdrop of a cross.

Lighthearted and upbeat songs provide a contrast to dialogue which stretches the intellectual muscles.

The common thread linking this unlikely trinity is gradually revealed and after a poetic summary by Oscar Wilde the play ends on an upbeat note.

Unholy Trinity is playing nightly at 8:00 pm until November 15 at the Cunard Street Theatre, 5527 Cunard Street (pay what you can at the Sunday matinee).

Straight from the heart

By HEATHER HUESTON

How long does it take to become a real Maritimer? How many third cousins do you have to have in Glace Bay or Boston?

Well, don't worry, you don't need an Atlantic pedigree. You only have to live in the region (or have lived here sometime) to qualify for publication in *The Pottersfield Portfolio*, the annual review exclusively for Atlantic Canadian creative writers.

The Portfolio was founded by Dal professor, Lesley Choyce in 1979 as an alternative to reviews such as the Fiddlehead or the Antigonish which are open to anyone. The Portfolio's new coordinator, Halifax freelancer donalee Moulton-Barrett, wants to continue the tradition of mixing "well-known" with "as-yet-unknown" poets, writers, and, as of this issue, playwright and essayists.

The revamped design of the

review coincides with a subscription blitz which has quadrupled the number of subscribers.

"I'd like to see this in doctors and dentists offices," says Moulton-Barrett. She feels that Atlantic fiction is written "straight from the heart". "There's no reason good literature can't be good reading," she explains as she describes her crusade to reclaim poetry-phobes and other people scared off by Literature. "It's more than literature — here's what people are thinking".

The subscription fees and ad revenues supplement a small Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Fitness grant. The Canada Council can't categorize it, so they can't fund it, according to Moulton-Barrett.

Contributors to Volume 8 range from a high school student to three Dal grad students to Silver Donald Cameron and Spider Robinson.

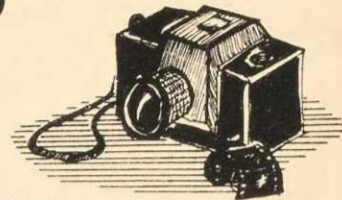
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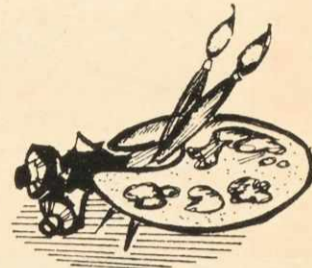
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