

Students banish air

Possessed Fine Arts building glimpses the end

By REBECCA CANN

A mysterious force is with us? While controversy rages over the true nature of whatever it may be that is haunting the Fine Arts building, steps are being taken to clear the air. Thursday the 21st saw four students hard at work flushing out what they seemed to think are evil spirits and York University saw what could have been its first exorcism.

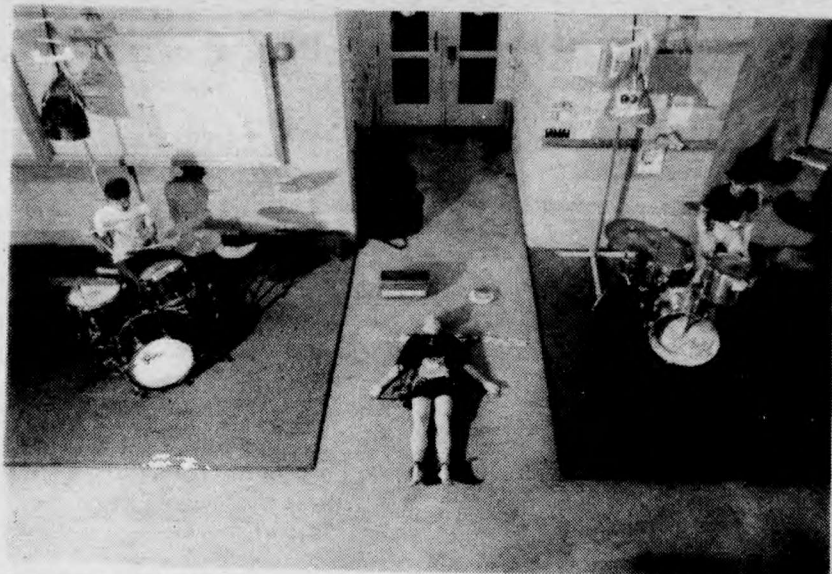
At 8:45 a.m. three drummers and one dancer, made up with something akin to warpaint, began the ritual in the lobby of the Fine Arts building. Clearly they meant business. The low rustle of one drum gradually grew as first one, then another drummer joined in. As the crescendo built and the rhythms shifted, the dancer, lying face up on the floor, twitched and rolled into life. Wild and exotic, the frenzy grew as the dancer threw herself from one end of the lobby to the other, racing up stairs and through the spectators to touch all walls of the building. Between banging the structural columns with a short wooden pole, the dancer scooped a mysterious

white powder into the palms of her hands, blowing clouds of dust into the air of the lobby.

The exorcism was truly a spectacle, with brilliant lights, carefully placed masks, the tremendous power of the three sets of drums, and the filming of the performance all adding to the intensity and vibrancy of the event. But the success of ritual all depends on whether or not everything is done exactly right. Ask any primitive.

What was the mysterious powder used during the ceremony? Did the dancer touch all the walls necessary? Were the drummers sure that three really is the 'magic number'?

Whether or not all is now well in the Fine Arts Building remains to be seen, for not everyone is convinced that evil spirits are the problem. Some even maintain that the real problem lies in the ventilation and filter system of the building, which is unable to digest the ethereal by-products of Fine Arts students. Whatever it is, evil spirits or bad air, a first step has been taken to change that stuffy feeling in the Fine Arts Building.



Soaking up the Sun: A perfect example of what all good ritualists know...symmetry is vital.



ROBERTA DI MAIO

Exorcising can be tough work!

Play revisits '70s

By SOPHIA CARON

In 1973 the average sex therapist had a four-month waiting list. The code words for women were equality, change and discrimination. The idealism of the sixties had crashed into Vietnam, Watergate and the energy crisis, and the "me" generation had swept in to fill the gap.

This is the era explored in the Theatre Department's fourth year production of Michael Weller's *Loose Ends*. Playing in Atkinson Studio from December 3rd to the 6th the play focuses on the relationship of the two central characters over a nine year period. The play captures specific events in their lives in microscopic detail, travelling around the world in the process.

Director Louis Di Bianco describes *Loose Ends* as a play about people "struggling for stability in a time when there were few clearly defined rules for behaviour." Weller is an aristocrat of realistic characterization. The dialogue is dense with undertones yet filled with quirky surface humour. A powerful vehicle for student actors preparing to face the professional world of theatre at the end of this year.

While the play is distinctly centralized in the seventies Di Bianco points out that many of the issues in the play, both personal and social, are very much alive today. For example Weller has explored a situation in which a person's career becomes so

much in focus of her energies that eventually the person and the people around her are completely consumed. *Loose Ends* is an emotional roller coaster, carrying both actors and audience along for the ride. A lifetime in two hours is an intense experience.

Because the play covers such a wide range of places and times; realism has been abandoned in the set design. A series of levels, with images from the seventies super-imposed, the set gives priority to the action of the characters and the inter-relationships explored throughout the play.

The production's emphasis on character made it necessary for the actors to understand the social and political environment of the seventies and its significance to their individual characters. A research party was in order. Dressed in funky seventies clothing they listened to the Bee Gees and talked about drugs, Anita Bryant and the ERA. In this way the dominant attitudes of the period were clarified for the cast.

The distinctiveness of the seventies as an era in *Loose Ends* will be interesting to perceive through eighties eyes. Whether or not the insights of Weller into the lives of human beings will survive in their vividness remains to be seen. The success of the theatre department's venture into the timelessness of characterization will be known in the very near future.

Excilbur's weekly
guide to arts
events on Campus.

If you are planning an arts
event, drop by Excilbur
at 111 Central Square or
call 667-3201 and ask
for Elliott or Dave.

Theatre Theatre Theatre Theatre Theatre

Loose Ends: the fourth year production

Atkinson Theatre
Dec. 3-6 at 7 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinee on Dec. 4 and 6

Adults \$5, Students & Seniors \$4
Tickets available in Central Sq. 12-2 p.m. week-
days, Box Office opens 1 hr. before performance

Coffee Coffee Coffee Coffee Coffee Coffee Coffee

"He was in the world but..." a solo exhibition of
sculpture by John McKinnon

Glendon Gallery
Until Dec. 19

Readings Readings Readings Readings

Winters College Reading Series: Canada Council
Readings by Florence McNeil
Winters Senior Common Room
Dec. 3, 5 p.m.

Clouds As Waves, Petals As Rain: Contemporary
Chinese Calligraphy, Paintings and Prints, From the
Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou, People's
Republic of China

Art Gallery of York University
Until Dec. 20

"Once Upon a Word" Hedi Bouraoui, Master of Stong
College: Interpretation by Micheline Montgomery
Winters College Gallery
Until Dec. 20

Galleries Galleries Galleries Galleries Galleries

Installation by Mark Adair

Samuel J. Zacks Gallery
Dec. 3-12

Steve Evangelatos: Recent Works
Founders College Gallery
Until Dec. 1

Birth: paintings and drawings by Claudio Cavaleiro
Calumet College Common Room
Until Dec. 6



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Thurs., Dec. 5th, 1985
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