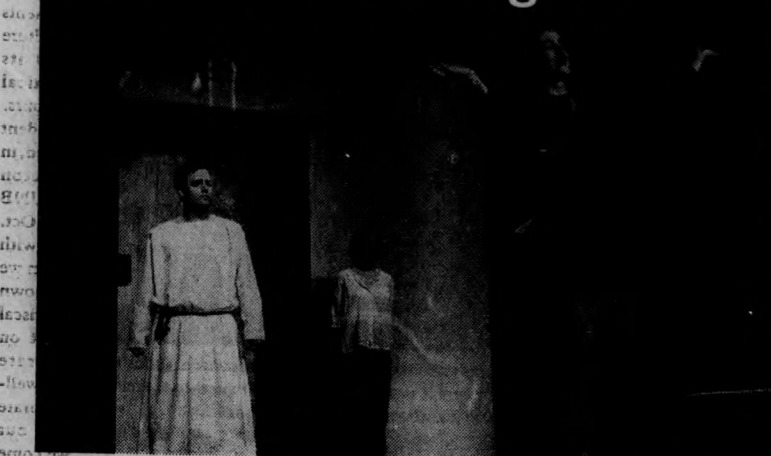


E T E R T I M E T

Theatre UNB opens season with Antigone



CHRISTINA ATKINSON PHOTO
"INTO OUR HANDS YOU SHALL BE TAKEN CRUELLY...": Antigone, starring Paul MacDonald and Jenn Brewer, opened last night at Memorial Hall.

SCOTT RADFORD
THE BRUNSWICKIAN

The story of *Antigone*, written by Sophocles, is yet another event in the unfortunate life of the family of Oedipus.

For those of you who don't know the story, here's a brief synopsis: The sons of Oedipus, unable to decide who is to rule following their father's death, fight to the death for the crown. One is defending the city and the other attacking. Following the death of the two brothers the next king, Creon, chooses to make an example of Polynices who fought against the city, by refusing to allow him a proper burial. This is where the play begins. Antigone, Polynices' sister, chooses to defy Creon and bury her brother. She is caught and brought before the king and the play focuses around the struggle and confrontations caused by the conflict of Antigone's action and Creon's decree.

So the play itself is a Greek tragedy which touches on many moral and ethical themes. There is the conflict of man against woman, the conflict of the individual against the state, and the laws

of mortals and the laws of the gods. But primarily, the play may be interpreted as the embodiment of the futility of human existence, the individual struggles to succeed, yet he cannot win no matter what choices he makes.

My overall impression of the play was that it was a very strong interpretation of the themes suggested in the script. Each of the actors was forced to bring forward some very difficult ideas and emotions, which was very well done. Now, this may be where I show my own ignorance of Greek tragedy, and that is in my only criticism. For, at times it seemed that the play was quite static, the action of the play is mostly in the text. One was forced to listen intently at times to follow the recounting of the situation as presented by the chorus members. Yet, this is not a criticism of the actors, nor the director, for I think that they took this difficult aspect of Greek tragedy well in stride, and this in no way hindered my enjoyment of the play.

Now, this is the part where I emot. The ending was great. I'd tell you more about it but that would give it away,

let's just say that you will really enjoy it if you see it. The music was very complementary, and did not seem out of place in a Greek setting but even enhanced the mood. This version of the text was modern, yet still remained very poetic with each line flowing nicely and in a form that was not out of reach.

Since this play was very dependent on the text, each performer was required to really push their own acting ability to be able to avoid monotony, and all of the actors did exceptionally well in this regard. There were some particularly passionate scenes, forcing the actors to really push the acting envelope. Some notable instances of this are the exchange between Creon and Haemon, and Antigone's and Creon's respective final speeches.

Dana Nielsen, the first time director did a very good job bringing everything together. When asked about the focus he said that he really wanted to concentrate on the theme struggle. That is, each of the characters is involved in some sort of struggle with the decisions that they must make. The director feels that audiences should really be able to relate to each of these characters, because what they are confronted with is not unlike the types of decisions that most of us have also had to come to grips with. He says, "even though Creon is a misogynistic, arrogant tyrant you can still relate to his suffering."

So you've got to get down there and see for all sorts of reasons you can get out and support your fellow students, maybe that play you read in Arts 1000 will make more sense when you see it on the stage, and finally, where else can you get some culture for the price of a beer?

Antigone is running at Memorial Hall, October 31 and November 1st and 2nd at 8:00 pm. The price is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, and \$3 if you're an Arts 1000 student.

Starkicking extravaganza



JUD DELONG PHOTO
POSING FOR POSTERITY: Drummer Doug Boudreau and bassist Nick Dunk of the band Starkicker brave the frigid Fredericton weather to pose for a photograph.

PETER J. CULLEN
THE BRUNSWICKIAN

Starkicker are a happy band. They've recently achieved their goal of signing to a major label, their national popularity increases with every passing day and, most importantly, they love their music.

beach music, the band's debut album on the Sony label, emits 11 tracks of catchy choruses, upbeat guitar riffs and pleasant vocal harmonies. "We're into pop music," says Nick Dunk, bassist of the St. Catharines, Ontario band. "We just wanted to get away that whole grunge, negative sound. We consciously did it, but at the same time we were into that kind of music anyway. I think it is a refreshing change."

The trio, consisting of brothers Nick and Ben Dunk and drummer Doug Boudreau, began about four years ago under the moniker blue.bottle.fly. However, upon signing with Sony they discovered their name conflicted with an Australian act, prompting Cam Bull, the band's accompanying guitarist during live gigs, to suggest "Starkicker."

From that point, the group has begun to gather national recognition with their own special brand of musical happiness. On beach music, Ben Dunk's sweet voice and sunshine-sounding lyrics, combined with a beach photo on the album cover, bring to mind elements of the Beach Boys. And Nick admits that the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds* record, and the band itself, tremendously influenced Starkicker's style of music.

"Ben loves that record. He was listening to that heavily while we were recording. ... The songs are really catchy and everybody knows them, so that's what we aspired to

be. But if you break it down, those songs are actually complex. They're not simple."

"It's hard to write good melodies like that," Boudreau interjects.

"Yeah, and to be so universal but to be respected so creatively at the same time ... that's kind of what we like about [*Pet Sounds*]. Just how it seems so simple and the songs sound so easy. Everybody can relate to [the songs], but at the same time they're kind of almost disparaging sometimes, if you really listen to the lyrics."

The same could actually be stated for Starkicker's songs. As Nick relates, "Our songs are happy chords, they're major chords, but it's not all just 'happy, happy, la-la' stuff." Ben dwells upon the words for each tune, then the group attempts to create a product that can be proud of by usually jamming out each effort.

"[Ben] brings most of the songs to practice — just sort of a skeletal song — and then we usually sort of put our parts together and arrange it," continues Nick. "But you never know what's going to happen in the studio."

Because of their record deal, Starkicker were permitted much more freedom in the recording process than was allowed during their days as independent artists. "I find we end up changing a lot of things [in the studio]," states Doug. "We get a lot more vocals in the studio, too, and we had a lot of time to record, so we did a lot more harmonies and things like that. It was something we really never had the time to work on before."

During the band's independent days the usual self-doubts were always present, but when the opportunity to sign to Sony came along, Starkicker's true dream was

suddenly realized. "When you're independent you're limited to time and space, recording time and all that. So when we got signed to make the new album we had the creative freedom to do a lot more, to experiment a lot more," explains Nick.

"[It's] just so we could make a living from doing [music]," says Doug. "Now we can tour and we have support on the tour, and they push our record. Now we can at least make a decent living out of playing."

"Well, yeah. Hopefully," laughs Nick.

Despite the desire to get signed, it's still obvious that the band had to suffer during their indie period for their love of music — or at least that's what they claim. "Well, we all had day jobs. Me and Ben actually worked at the post office in Niagara Falls, and that was ... pretty bad. [Laughs] And Doug, what were you doing? Packing chickens?"

"No, I wasn't packing chickens," Doug replies in a resigned state. "I don't know where this myth came up. It was a wholesale foods warehouse," he says to clarify himself. Then, seriously, "It was just a garbage job to pay for playing. Paying to playing, really."

However, the postal and poultry work sustained the band and they can now claim moderate national success with their first single, "Get Up." MuchMusic took kindly to it upon its release and Starkicker have noticed the results. "When we play shows and we play 'Get Up,' people know that song and as soon as they hear it they really get into it," says Doug.

After the Spirit of the West tour finishes, Starkicker still plan to strive for further success. With perhaps the album's best tune, "Neil Armstrong," soon appearing on MuchMusic, the band looks to the future. "We're hoping the 'Neil Armstrong' single is going to take off for us. If it does, hopefully — eventually — we'll try to get a release in the States. And after that there's other countries," Doug enthuses.

As for their live performances, the band believes they garner a few fans per show with their style of play. "[We're] pretty energetic. We're loud. We go for it. We deliver. I pound the living tar out of my drums," laughs Doug.

Nick finishes by saying, "Our music is more driving, more aggressive. ... But not [the songs are] aggressive. Some of them are just plain pop songs," Nick says.

"We're pretty happy with the whole thing."

What else could you expect from such a happy band?

Haligonian rockers invade the city



ADAM ARGRAVES PHOTOS
The Superfriends wowed their crowd with their frenzy of guitars ... while Zumpano also received a response for their tried and true talent.

ANTHONY S. DAVIS
THE BRUNSWICKIAN

Two of Canada's best new bands played in town this past Saturday night. Vancouver's Zumpano and Halifax's Superfriends performed on a bill with Hercules and local act Steaming Toolie at Rye's Deli. The show was excellent with great mixes of both new and old material. Zumpano have a new album out on Sub-Pop records, while Superfriends have a new album coming out in January on Halifax label Murderecords. Zumpano also currently have a single out on Murderecords.

Zumpano formed in late 1992, and have released two full length albums to date. They play a real rock music, which is quite reminiscent of early era Beatles and the Beach Boys. The band is heading back to Vancouver now, touring the East Coast, Quebec and Ontario with Superfriends.

Superfriends have really come up into the spotlight this year, and much of this recognition can be attributed to the success of their video for "Karateman," which received lots of air play on MuchMusic. Says singer/guitarist Matt Murphy, "We just tried to make a good video with a story line."

However, these two bands were usurped from being the stars of the show by local rockers Steaming Toolie. With a Gandharvas-meets-Bob sound, this band rocked in a capital way. It is a nice break to hear a local band performing the music that they want to play, not just what people want to hear. This band is definitely one

SHELLY MORELL
THE BRUNSWICKIAN

East coast music continues to take rise in popularity, and with it comes a band from Petty Harbour, Newfoundland we all know and love: Great Big Sea. This week I spoke one-on-one with the energetic and out-going bass player Darrell Power, one of four members of Great Big Sea.

This band performs energetic, upbeat music that Power describes as "Newfoundland folk music." However, he says, "It's difficult to describe it best because it's folk music with all these other influences that are snuck into it."

Great Big Sea released their first self-titled album with Warner Canada in August of 1993. Their second album, *Up*, was released a year ago this month.

The band has almost hit the midpoint of their tour throughout the Atlantic provinces, so they've already seen many audiences. When asked

how the crowds have been, Power responded enthusiastically that "the crowds have been huge. You know you're doing something special when you can get such a wide variety [of music] out to the same show and have them enjoying the same show."

This tour has certainly been a gruelling one for the guys. Taking a look at their tour schedule shows many one night stops in different cities everyday. "It can get pretty surreal ... but the beauty of it is getting to travel to the different places and walking around and seeing them." He says it's hard on each of the band member's family life, but he says there's nothing like going back home. "It's not a new thing for people to be working away from their loved ones."

Outside of Atlantic Canada, Great Big Sea have travelled to places like Scotland and Poland. "Europe was interesting; you're taking the music back to where it came from." He also commented that the band definitely wants to go back to Europe sometime

in the next year.

Spare time is somewhat limited for the band. They may only have a few hours in the early morning or a bit of time before soundcheck to themselves. However, the shows have started a little earlier each night on this tour, so they have basically been hanging around and waiting for the show to start.

Great Big Sea recently performed in Saint John, NB at Festival by The Sea, putting in six or seven shows in three days. They were able to perform with and meet other Atlantic Canadian performers such as Characters Incorporated and Sons of Maxwell.

Great Big Sea hits town Friday, November 1 to play at The Fredericton Playhouse. Power admits that the guys are pumped to perform at the venue. They've had energetic crowds throughout the tour and are hoping that Freddy Beach will show them what a real audience is like. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Playhouse.

Great Big Sea playing The Playhouse tonight

KNOW WHERE TO GO?

- ARTS**
- Janice Wright Cheney & Carol Collicutt display at Old Arts Building. Until Nov 16. Free.
 - Onstage presents *Le Soldat d'Histoire* at The Playhouse. Nov 2, 8 pm.
- MUSIC**
- Phil Reynolds at The Cellar. Nov 1.
- THEATRE**
- *Antigone* at Memorial Hall. Oct 31 - Nov 2, 8 pm. \$5 adults, \$4 students.

If you are promoting an upcoming event, fax (453-4958) or e-mail (brms@unbca) your basic info to The Brunswick's Entertainment department with the heading "ATTN: Upcoming Events".



The folks at EMI want YOU to WIN 1 of 3 Beatles *Anthology 3*. Simply answer the following four skill-testing questions and bring them into The Bruns in room 35 of the SUB. The Big Beatles Box awaits your name, student number and phone number.

- Which Beatle leads the troupe on the cover of *Abbey Road*?
- What colour is Paul's costume on the *Sgt. Pepper* album cover?
- What famous musician plays lead guitar on George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" on this album?
- How many *Anthologies* came before number three?

One entry per customer, please. Deadline for entries is Tuesday at 5 pm, so "Come And Get It."