

TNB Young Company plans program

Four years after its expected demise from lack of funding, Theatre of New Brunswick's Young Company begins rehearsals for another season of school performances.

Paul Hanna, TNB/YC manager, director, and playwright has announced a season of two shows to be performed in schools around the province from January through May of 1977. During the spring of 1976, the Young Company played in Campbellton, the Miramichi, Riverview, Saint John, and in sixty schools within an eighty-mile radius of Fredericton. The program will be extended to other areas in 1977.

The Young Company cast consists of Lusia Lauzon, Stephen

Morgan, Paul Marlo Lauzon and Ilkay Silk, under the direction of Paul Hanna. All were members of the Company in 1976.

For grades four to six, the Young Company will present Dr. Mildew's Marvellous Magical Musical Merriment Show, a reworking of the show presented at Kings Landing during the summer. For grades seven to twelve, Mr. Hanna has written a new play concerning the death of Jewett's Mills. This New Brunswick village was razed and flooded in 1967 when the Mactaquac Dam was built. In addition to seeing the 163 year history of the village, students see the conflict between preservation of heritage and preparation for the future.

The program of performances will be augmented with as many workshops as time permits. These workshops are not merely follow-ups to the performances, but are opportunities for teachers to see how drama may be integrated into the curriculum.

This is an extension of the TNB/YC theatre-in-education program offered from September through December this year.

School principals around the province have been notified of the

new Young Company Program. Requests for performances will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Any inquiries about the program should be addressed to Paul Hanna at the Playhouse, P.O. Box 566, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Theatres protest cuts

Toronto, Ontario — At the annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Theatres (formerly the League of Canadian Theatres - LOCT) held this past weekend in Toronto, grave concern was expressed over the very low increase in Canada Council grants to performing arts groups expected for the coming year.

The association agreed to send the following telegram to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Secretary of State John Roberts, Director of the Canada Council Charles Lussier and Treasury Board Chairman Robert Andras:

"The Association of Canadian Theatres (formerly the League of Canadian Theatres - LOCT),

concluding a 3 day meeting of representatives of 46 professional theatres from across Canada, vigorously protests the indefensibly low increases in Federal grant support for 1977-78.

The continued existence of professional theatre, a vital component of the social fabric of Canada, is now threatened.

We urgently request that you meet with representatives of our association to discuss the implications of this funding policy."

The telegram was sent in response to a recent communique from Timothy Porteous, assistant director of the Canada Council, to all theatres presently receiving Council grants. In his letter Mr. Porteous advised "that the federal

government has announced its intention to further restrain the growth in its expenditures next year."

Mr. Porteous explained that as a direct consequence "any increases which Council may be able to provide in its grants will also be considerably smaller than those provided this year."

Theatre New Brunswick, as a member of the Association of Canadian Theatres, fully supports the position of its association and expresses the hope that at this time of national restraint the government will realize the necessity of strengthening the arts as a vital channel of communication between all the regions and citizens of our country.

Frontier women portrayed

A HARVEST YET TO REAP by Linda Rasmussen, Lorna Rasmussen, Candace Savage and Anne Wheeler, published by the Women's Press.

Despite the wide diversity of women who settled on the prairies, they all shared a common dilemma. They were self-reliant, independent individuals, while the traditions of their day constrained them not to step out of the bounds that were considered 'ladylike'. A Harvest Yet To Reap, published by the Women's Press, is an unusual book about the unusual women who first settled on the Canadian prairies.

The book's parent project, the prizewinning NFB film *Great Grand Mother*, was directed by film-makers Lorna Rasmussen and Anne Wheeler. Joined by researcher Linda Rasmussen and journalist Candace Savage, a visual format that would remain true to the spirit of the film was decided on.

The appealing photograph-and-excerpt format of the book tells the personal stories of the women who survived the Canadian frontier. From contemporary interviews, diary excerpts, and newspaper accounts, the authors assemble a natural picture of the lives of these ordinary women: the trip by CPR, the first long, searching look at the homestead, and then the work — the endless hours of toil in the house, in the barnyard, and in the field.

It's not all a grim story. A Harvest Yet To Reap is packed with humour and high spirits. Who else but these pioneer women, the authors ask, could do more than their share of chores and live it up a little, too? The photographs fully confirm the pleasure they took in

their key roles as mothers, wives, teachers, and community organizers in laying the cornerstones of prairie culture. The last chapters relate the struggle for the vote, capturing all the backroom drama of the women's confrontations with the crusty politicians who would deny them suffrage.

Poems

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*Spring-sun forging the grey river,
Ignoring the sombre beetle men,
Waving their sorcerers' rods,
Sprouting orange fire.
The Start rising in the East,
The wise men come to venerate the King.
At the feet, mechanized lapping of roaring
carnivores.
Ever precious, they gambol on and up,
Wanting to play for lifetimes' length, their games
Of tag and touch,
With the King and all his men.
The beetles as a memory,
Silent, lost and left.*

JOHN NEWLAND

The World's Ills?

*But parents,
It's half your fault
Alochol
Locked in a vault
Causing us
To imitate
Your image
Then — it's too late!*

— Paul Stone

Elision

*In the cold november winds
at my desk
below the window
i am two
one writing oblivious words
one moving with the rhythm
of the trees
slowly
winter consumes the earth
leaving one
staring in the window
breathing frost
on the inane skeleton
bent
forward in the chair.*

— Sally Harasym

CHOICE

*Moses on his rock-et.
One is one is one.
Is. All ways.*

JOHN NEWLAND

Time

*Your voice floats gently on the wind
whispering in my ear
Somehow I can't help but listen,
Because you are so dear
I could never live without you.
Someday I know the time will come
when I'll hear your voice no more,
I must accept what I can not change
for time stands still for no one.
Enjoy what you have.*

— Di

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OK... Camera
La Quebecoise

Wednesday, January 12, 1977, 8 p.m.
Admission Free