

# 'Carrie' disappoints



by Don Markham

When I attended the movie Carrie in the SUB last Wednesday, I had intended to find out the appeal of the movie. Since it has already been on T.V., there must be some reason for crowds to keep seeing it; perhaps it has the fascination of the Rocky Horror Picture Show and people in

the audience participate. I really didn't know.

Alas, my wondering had been for nought. The audience consisted of barely thirty souls.

"Well," I thought, "there's a big hockey game tonight." Unfortunately, the true reason for the shortage of people was the movie itself. People had

heard Carrie wasn't worth the effort, and they heard right.

The film was made by Brian DePalma, who has a reputation for scary movies. From Carrie I'd give him a reputation of junky horror flicks. The film was a typical drive-in B movie. There were a few thrills but it was hardly worth the wait.

The film started on a surreal pornographic note—teenage girls coming out of a shower. Why they were even included in the film at all I do not know; they disappointed the hardcore porno connoisseur; their nudity also added nothing to the plot. After the first minute of the shower, it is all downhill. Carrie, who is the teenager who gets picked on, starts to menstruate in the shower. She panics. Need I say more?

Sissy Spacek plays the lead role, and I wasn't too impressed. I didn't believe she existed, nor did any others of the cast. It was all so stupid... surely the book by renown horror author Steven King was much better.

If you must attend this garbage, go for the last two minutes of the film and nothing else. There is one scare that is simply great. Most of the other spine-chilling effects were either overused until they became repetitious, ruined by melodramatic music, or never properly embraced by the director. Carrie shows hints of being a scary movie; too bad that's all.

## Theatre 1707 still surviving; still performing

by Eleanor Austin

Even though 5,000 people passed through the doors of Theatre 1707 this year, the Bit Players Society is still 'suffering the slings and arrows' of beginners' fortune.

The theatre was founded by Weldon Bona of Sydney, N.S. and Simone Georges from Toronto, Ont. It was incorporated as a non-profit society in N.S. in January 1979.

Technical director, John Right is confident that once the Theatre is established (which to him means enough money to pay one year's rent) the company will be secure.

Presently, rent and operating costs amount to \$1,000 per month. Nevertheless, Rights says one area in which the theatre is secure is "turning out the art." Twenty-two plays, 11 of which were in-house plays (Bit Players) have been presented since the Theatre opened its doors March 28, 1979. Four of the in-house plays were main stage productions, "which is a lot,"

added Right.

An Easter-time special, **Little Red Riding Hood** is scheduled for April that will feature local children as did the hit production **Alice**, a financially successful play at the Theatre.

Private corporations like Imperial Oil, Maritime Tel & Tel and Xerox have all contributed financial aid in support of the Theatre. When the Theatre only had three days to raise \$1,000 (rent money) the staff of about four regular people canvassed store to store asking for donations.

They got it too! To date, \$4,600 in public donations have been granted to Theatre 1707. **Dal Gazette** gave the Theatre \$100 and the Dal Arts Society donated \$50. "We couldn't ask for a better public," said Right. Nevertheless, the theatre group is still in financial difficulty, says Right, and the freezing of Canada Council grants worry them.

Theatre 1707 is called a semi-professional group

because they pay their actors and actresses. It provides a great opportunity for amateurs to act, direct and produce.

There are a lot of theatre groups in Halifax but television is still the theatre art world's only competitor, suggests Right.

Events coming to Theatre 1707 include Acadia University dramatic society's play **Serpent** this weekend, then **Soldier**, a multi-media new wave dance show Feb. 29 and March 1. A Nfld. new wave group will appear March 7 & 8 then films will be shown March 14, 15, 21 & 22.

A progressive rock group from SMU will play March 28 & 29 and there will also be a lottery for \$100 by Theatre 1707 on March 28 to celebrate their one year anniversary.

April 2-9 will be the showing of **Little Red Riding Hood** and perhaps another one-act play will be presented in that month. Bonne chance Theatre 1707!

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