

making the scene: part one

This is actually an article about an article that didn't get written. We were sitting around meditating on the sins of omission and commission that have made the Arts Page so inimitable; and it

occurred to us that one of the things we should be doing is analyzing some of the emptier corners of the Edmonton cultural picture.

There are, of course, varieties of emptiness.

There are the things that just aren't being done. Classical music outside the standard repertory (especially 18th and 20th century works). Contemporary European drama (which is a shame because nearly all the best drama of our century has been European). Classical drama of any description. Exciting private gallery-management. Et cetera, et cetera.

Then there are the things that

get done but aren't worth doing, that carry emptiness inside of them. "John Brown's Body", a bad poem not old enough to be funny. The Edmonton Symphony's coming "Hommage à la France" program, which might better be called "Hackneyed French Favorites". The agonizingly predictable offerings of the Edmonton Professional Opera Association.

So we thought of running an arts-calendar fantasy, with listings for all the things that we'd like to see done. "The Three-penny Opera". "Boris Gudonoy". Some Gluck. Lots of Yeats. "Man and Superman". A Handel festival.

(Don't be worried if you don't like this list, or haven't heard of

Gluck, by the way. The whole point of drawing up lists is that they should please some people very much, not a lot of people a little. Dream your own dreams, and pressure everybody in sight to realize them.)

But then it occurred to us (reasonable people that we are) that what stands in the way of a lot of these fabulous projects is their sheer impracticality.

Indeed, we imagined how one of the items might run: "The Edmonton Professional Opera Association announces its intention of staging Wagner's 'Ring' this spring. Performances will be held (for greater intimacy and less rent) in Con Hall.

"One of the highlights of this production, and one which will certainly be of interest on the international musical scene, is Mr. Priestman's decision to adapt Wagner's normally-gargantuan orchestral score for his well-drilled chamber ensemble..."

'Fill in the rest of this an-

nouncement yourself; casting the 'Ring' with Edmonton singers is great sport, in which we would further indulge but for the laws of libel.)"

And we could have carried on, imagining Edmonton productions of plays stylistically out of the range of our local talent—Shaw, Giraudoux, Shakespeare, Strindberg, et cetera (memo to outraged theatre people: we'd love to be proven wrong).

But at this point we got cold feet.

We imagined all the letters we'd get from people who would solemnly assure us that Mr. Priestman would rather die than tamper with Wagner's scoring; not to mention those myriad hardworking cogs in the Edmonton cultural machine whose sensibilities would be injured at the least hint of lack of appreciation for their efforts.

The fact is that the Edmonton Cultural Scene is by and large geared to rather good mediocrity, and that the laws of inertia are very powerfully at work within it.

—J. O. T./W. R. B.

QUEENS & TEENS BEAUTY SALON

Phone 439-1990

for latest stylings, body perms, perms, frosting and tipping

1/2 block South of University Hospital in Concord Towers
Open Mon. - Sat. Thurs. and Fri. till 9 p.m.

PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT

TWO DAYS ONLY — FEB. 2 & 3

WITH TWO PERFORMANCES EACH DAY

EVENINGS 8:30 P.M. \$2.00 — MATINEES 2 P.M. \$1.50

AN ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF GREAT BRITAIN

LAURENCE



AS OLIVIER OTHELLO

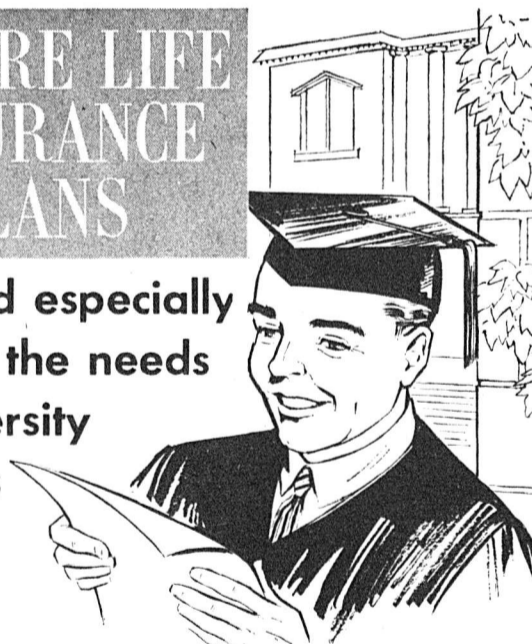
TECHNICOLOR PANAVISION FROM WARNER BROS.

ODEON

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

EMPIRE LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

designed especially to meet the needs of University Students



As a University man, you already know the value of Life Insurance. You probably plan to buy some "later on". Empire Life makes it possible for you to buy it **now**—by offering you unique plans designed to meet the needs of University Students—at prices you can afford to pay.

Plan now to enjoy a guaranteed financial future. Let an Empire Life representative tell you about these new plans for University Students—which include guaranteed insurability up to age 40, regardless of your state of health.



HONDA SALES & RENTALS

8602 - 99 Street
Phone 439-4407

The EDMONTON SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

requires

QUALIFIED Catholic teachers at all grade levels from 1 to 12 including vocational education, commercial and academic subjects. Elementary teachers particularly required.

DUTIES to commence September 1st, 1966.

PRESENT SALARY range from \$3,100 to \$9,550 dependent upon training and experience. Now under negotiation—improvement anticipated.

"MEET YOUR MATCH" At The Monte Carlo Dance

co-sponsored by N.A.I.T. IBM 1620 and Commerce Undergraduate Society

Instructions:—

- Check one space only in each category for "I AM" and "I LIKE".
- Cut out questionnaire and deposit in box in S.U.B. Lobby before noon Thursday, January 20, 1966.
- Check into "Match Desk" at Monte Carlo Saturday night January 22 to receive your notification of matched partner.
- There is no commitment on the part of either party to his or her matched partner.
- Married, Pinned of Engaged individuals are invited to participate.

Name	Female		I.D. Number	
Male	I Am	I Like	I Am	I Like
Age			Marital Status	
18-19	1		Single	1
20-21	2		Engaged	2
22-23	3		Divorced	3
24-25	4		Married	4
26-27	5			
29-plus	6		Hair Color	
College Class			Brown	1
Freshman	1		Black	2
Sophomore	2		Blond	3
Junior	3		Red	4
Senior	4		Any	5
Graduate	5			
Height			School Major	
5'1-5'2	1		Graduate	1
5'3-5'4	2		Engineering	2
5'5-5'6	3		Business	3
5'7-5'8	4		Arts and Science	4
5'9-5'10	5		Education	5
5'11-6'	6		Med. and Dent.	6
6'1-6'2	7		Agriculture	7
6'3-6'4	8		Nurses	8
6'5-plus	9		Law	9
Religion			Any	0
Catholic	1			
Jewish	2		Weight	
Protestant	3		Under 110	1
L.D.S.	4		110-120	2
Non-Christian	5		120-130	3
Any	6		130-140	4
Interest and Skills			140-150	5
Outdoor	1		150-160	6
Athletic	2		160-170	7
Indoor	3		170-180	8
Crafts	4		180-plus	9
Reading	5			
Music	6		Greek	1
Art	7		Independent	2
Drama	8			
Any	9		Either	3

previewing a man for all seasons

It is perhaps unfortunate that McCreath's production of Robert Bolt's "A Man For All Seasons" will be with us for only three days (Jan. 19-21). The whole effort, from cast to costumes, is enough to make ten Citadel Family Compacts sit up and take notice.

Perhaps these words are bold, being based on the experience of witnessing only one rehearsal, but I have every confidence that the play will bear me out. Walter Kaasa in the lead role of Thomas More appears to be in his usual top condition, and Wes Stephan along with John Madill are right up there with him.

The sets designed by Phil Silvers, a man who obviously knows what he is doing, are no less commendable than the acting, but I'm led to believe that the costumes may outdo both.

The play itself deals with Saint (or Sir, depending where you stand) Thomas More and his relationship with the young (but well-wedded and even better-bedded) Henry VIII, as regards what Henry should or should not do about Catherine, his barren Queen. In other words, the play is an oh-so-subtly comic hanging-out of England's dirty laundry.

But it is far from only that. It has its tender moments, such as when More literally gets the axe, and its strange moments, usually provided by a kind of metaphysical anomaly, inanity, and inconsistency in the person of the Common Man, who is also the Boatman, and More's servant (a kind of Bobby Hull of the stage—a golden boy of a thousand uses).

I am tempted to call the play a tragic farce, except that I don't think Robert Bolt would deserve it, since he makes no claim to being a Christian, and only Christians can lower their lips on one side and raise them on the other.

But rather than label it, or pick it apart (as the director was doing, only in another way, when I attended the rehearsal), I intend to see it.

The play, by the way, is going on at the Jubilee Auditorium (that wonderful marble cover-up for our brick mentality), and will move on to Red Deer Jan. 29, and early in February will assault Calgary.

—Peter Montgomery