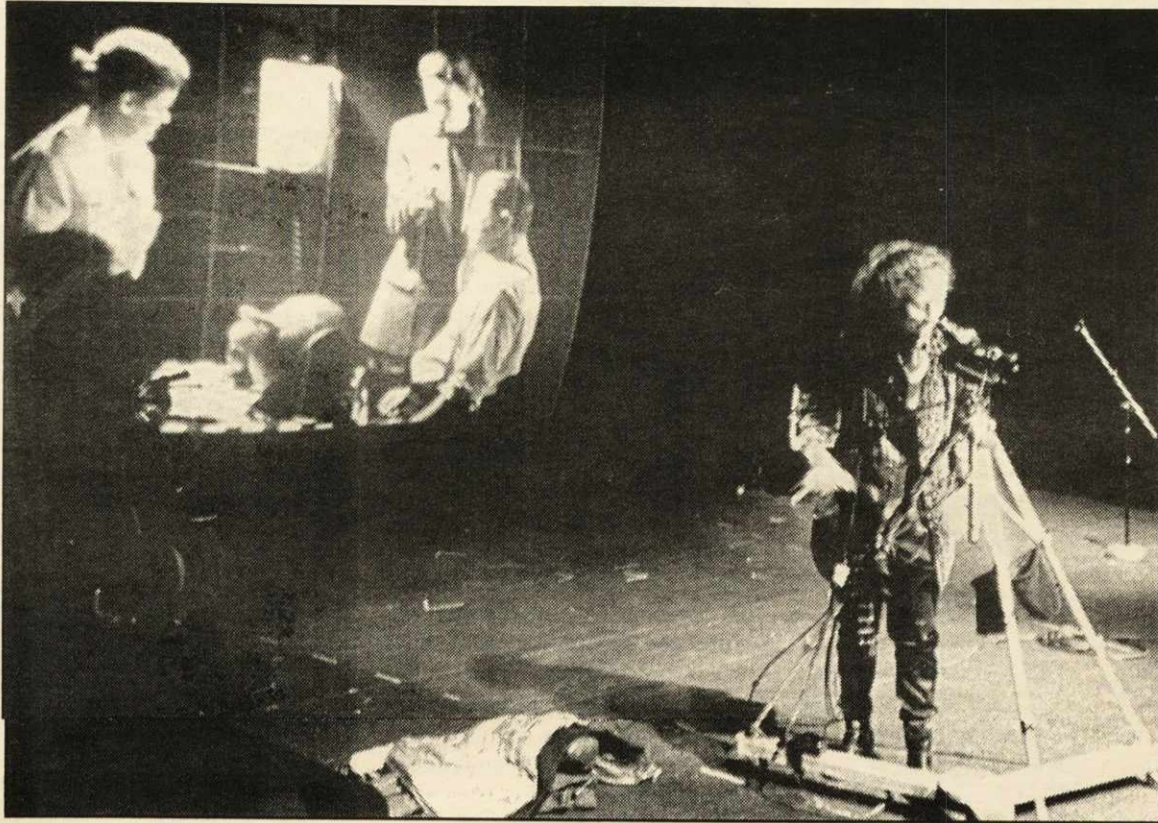


# Annoying Brat



BY ELAINE BELTAOS

*Brat*, a multimedia play by Wanda Graham, focuses on one main character, Glenda Burton. Mary-Colin Chisholm plays Glenda in the show, part of Neptune Theatre's 1997 Studio Series.

Glenda is a 37-year-old photographer who grew up as the daughter of an Air Force pilot. During the play, which is set mostly in Glenda's studio, she is visited by members of her family; male model Jim Solkowitz (Josh MacDonald), with whom Glenda has some sort of a relationship; and Bonnie (Michelle McIntyre), who is probably a symbol although it's hard to say what for.

The play seems to be making a comment on the emotional scars that growing up as a military "brat" can leave, as well as the strain it can place on personal and family relationships. How-

ever, *Brat* fails to do this in a manner worth watching. Instead, it presents a clash of disorganized scenes from a hysterical woman's life. It is difficult to grasp any sense of plot — or to identify with

It is difficult to grasp any sense of plot. The whole play seems to be mounted on a wild roller coaster ride, taking the characters with it.

the characters — as the whole play seems to be mounted on a wild roller coaster ride, taking the characters with it.

The multimedia aspect of the play consists of a large screen as a backdrop to the stage and four small television screens, two on either side of the stage. The images on the large screen are almost impossible to see due to their lack of clarity, and the TVs, with their constant flickering of questionably-relevant images, added little or nothing to the performance.

I found *Brat* to be much too long (around two and a half hours), confusing (or maybe confused), and at times offensive. You will be better off spending your time and money on something else.

*Brat continues playing in the Sir James Dunn Theatre until February 2.*

## Birdland no Hell's kitchen

BY MARK REYNOLDS

Rumours that the Birdland Cabaret, Halifax's premiere live band venue, has become a hang-out for the Hell's Angels have proven to be just that — rumours.

The rumours seemed to have started after an incident on December 6th in which Neil Smith, a member of the notorious biker gang, was charged with causing a disturbance, possession of a narcotic, and possession with the intent of trafficking at the popular Brunswick Street bar.

"There was an incident one night where they had been at numerous bars, there was some kind of convention in Halifax, and they ended up there (the Birdland)," said Greg Clark, owner of the Birdland Cabaret. "Someone from the clientele did something they didn't like."

Patrons of the Birdland may have also noticed that there has been increased police presence there on weekend nights. This has not been due to any perceived security problem.

"The reason was that we

found it worked out well. We've had them four months; it's like insurance," said Clark, who hired the police officers late last year.

"[The Birdland] is one of many businesses that do this," said Constable Gary Martin of the Halifax Regional Police about the increased police presence.

Martin said that there has not been any major problem at the Birdland that has come to his attention. "There have been two calls to the Birdland," he said, "which is actually quite low."

One source who has contacts with the Hell's Angels, but did not wish to be named, said that after the incident in December the Angels wanted to avoid the Birdland. "They know they'll be recognized there," said the source. "They want to stay away."

At least two other Birdland patrons were able to say that the Angels had been in the bar in the fall, on two separate occasions.

"There were four of them, sitting around drinking beer," said one source, adding that they were wearing their "colours," the tell-tale jean jackets with the

Hell's Angels insignia.

The RCMP officer responsible for investigating the Hell's Angels in Nova Scotia, who also requested his name not be used, stated that he was only aware of one occasion where an Angel was known to have been in the Birdland. To the best of his knowledge, there has not been any criminal activity there other than the incident on December 6th.

"We don't turn anyone away at the door," said Clark. "We just treat them like anyone else — unless there's a problem inside."

The Hell's Angels are "a known organized crime group as strong as what we know as the 'Mafia' world-wide," said the RCMP source.

The Hell's Angels came to Nova Scotia in 1984, when they assimilated a biker gang called the Thirteenth Tribe. They have 8 full members, and numerous "associates," who are not full members.

When contacted last week, Neil Smith's lawyer refused to cooperate or comment on the incident.

## Help the Gazette celebrate Pink Triangle Day – Friday, February 14th.

The Gazette is looking for the voices of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community through commentary, poetry, articles, photos and graphics.

All submissions are for the February 13th issue of the Gazette, which will contain a special supplement recognizing LGBTQ issues.

Call 494-2507 to get involved or drop by the Gazette offices in Room 312 of the Dalhousie Student Union Building.

**The deadline for submissions for the supplement is Monday, February 10th.**