

Spring Thaw entertaining but overrated

By GERRY AND SIOBHEN LASKEY

Last Friday night an energetic company of entertainers tried to break up the winter blues in this part of the country where the natural spring thaw is the slowest to come. The musical-comedy review *Spring Thaw* opened last week in St. John's Newfoundland and came through Fredericton on the first part of its cross country tour. The company consists of: Rosemary Radcliffe (of King of Kensington fame); Mary Ann McDonald, a Toronto singer-dancer-actress-comedian; Paul Brown, a certifiable looney; Brenda Bradley; Marvin Karon; and Patrick Young of the Charlottetown Summer Festival.

The company did manage to "thaw out" the audience with laughter and enjoyment but it was not a great night's entertainment. The show lagged in places and was generally successful in producing laughs from the audience; it didn't have us rolling in the aisles and slapping our knees. The pre-tour publicity somewhat overrates the comic impact of the show.

The first half of the show was slower than the second. Generally the music was more successful than the straight comedy. The song "Rain Song" about acid rain, didn't produce much laughter but it made its point. Another song was "Modern Multinational" which spoofed how THEY decide OUR future. A good satire of the Missisauga explosion "Canadian Pacific" featured two sandwich boards letters "C" and "P" coming together as the narrator explained

how CP moves "Chlorine" and "propane", with the kicker "At Canadian Pacific moving things is more than a responsibility...its a gas!" The first half closed with a funny number "Come to Canada" (a calypso song presenting Canada as a Northern banana republic). The women wore hockey shirts tailored as tops and skirts and the men plaid shirts with pom poms and straw hats.

The second half was a bit faster and the satire was a bit more political, but not first rate Canadian political satire in the tradition of "Inside from Outside" or "The Royal Canadian Air Farce". "Decision 84" spoofed the CBC's recent Gee-whiz approach to election coverage and had a Marxist Leninist party sweep the country. A musical quasi-religious veneration of the great national pipe dream "The Lottery" was well done. Also well done was a telethon take off for the "Ailing" oil industry which had Paul Brown go dro a sick little boy with a toy tractor to an arrogant "Peter Lougheed" saying "Let the eastern bastards freeze in the dark." "The Wings of Man" featured two anglo pilots landing sideways on a "Francicised" Quebec runway. "On the Slopes" performed by Paul Brown as a neophyte alpine skier was hilarious. He described how he discovered what "moguls" are whilst travelling downhill at 80 mph sitting on his skies.

All in all the show was mildly successful. The real stars of the show were Paul Brown for comedy and Mary Ann McDonald for singing.



Spring Thaw '80 warmed a Playhouse audience last Saturday. The cast of the revue touring Canada is, l to r: Mary Ann McDonald, Marvin Karon, Brenda Bradley, Patrick Young, Rosemary Radcliffe and Paul Brown.

Dalart Trio promises fine chamber music

Philippe Djokic, violon, William Valleou, cello, and William Tritt, piano, all members of the Dalart Trio, are young, internationally known artists. They are also members of the Dalhousie University Music Faculty. Since coming together in 1976, they have created a sensation in Halifax by providing local audiences with consistently great performers.

Philippe Djokic's reputation as an outstanding young violinist is quickly being recognized by audiences throughout North America and Europe. Since his graduation from the Juilliard School, he has already gained vast experience as a soloist, and has received numerous awards and prizes. On graduating as a student of Ivan Galamian he was presented with the Fritz Kreisler Award, the highest honour bestowed upon violinists by Juilliard. In June of 1975 Mr. Djokic was a prizewinner in the Jacques Thibald International Violin Competition in Paris and had a very successful appearance as soloist with the French Radio Orchestra. In 1977 he won a silver medal at the International Zagreb Violin Competition. He was invited to return to Yugoslavia at a later date as guest professor and soloist with the Zagreb and Belgrade Orchestras. Also in 1977 he was the winner of the CBC Talent Festival.

William Vallieau's extensive chamber music experience includes principal cello positions with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the McGill Chamber Orchestra and the Stratford Festival Ensemble. He was for five years a member of the Classical Quartet of Montreal and a founding mem-

ber of Musica Camerata, participating in numerous chamber and solo recordings for CBC Radio and Television and on disc. Mr. Valleou also appeared as a soloist with several major orchestras, including the Montreal Symphony. He has been a prizewinner in several international competitions as well as a member of major North American Symphony orchestras, including the Dallas, New Orleans, Cincinnati and Montreal Symphonies.

William Tritt won first prize at the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Concours in 1970 and the CBC Talent Festival in 1971. He was

also one of the two top prizewinners of the Montreal International Piano Competition leading to his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall and many recordings and engagements throughout North America and Europe. He has delighted audiences as guest soloist with major symphony orchestras including the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver symphonies and with his frequent recitals for CBC Radio and Television. He recently toured seven European capitals where he launched his first LP released by "La Guilde Internationale du Disque".

Dalart Trio
at the Playhouse sponsored by the Creative Arts Committee
March 18

Students admitted FREE		
DALART TRIO	PROGRAMME	MARCH 18, 80
Trio No. 3 in E major, K. 452		W.A. Mozart
Trio No. 2 in F Major, Op. 80		R. Schumann
Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49		F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Workshops offered

There is a last minute change in the Dalart Trio Workshop scheduled for Monday evening, March 17, 1980.

Instead of two separate workshops as announced earlier, the members of Dalart will give an "open Rehearsal" at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall, with discussion and commentary in rehearsing Beethoven's Trio in B Opus 97,

better known as the Archduke. This well known work is not part of Dalart Trio's Tuesday evening concert but is in the final stages of preparation for recording by CBC. After the rehearsal members of the Trio will be available to meet with pianists and string players on an individual basis. Those wishing to bring instruments and music are welcome to do so.

Folk Collective

The Folk Collective enjoyed some refreshing new sounds at the eighth coffeehouse last Sunday evening. Bill Lauf from Connecticut teamed up with Marc Lulham and the combination of his very refined tenor guitar style and expressive voice alongside Lulham's virtuoso improvisation on recorders and mouth harps pleased everyone. Jon Soderman joined forces with the duo for a few songs after the intermission. Mark Kristmanson played three tunes as well two of them gutsy, inventive, original songs. All who could make the concert despite snow and classes in the morning had a good time.

Sandy Greenburg a well known folksinger from Halifax will be performing at the next coffeehouse: this Sunday, March 16, 8:30 in the Tartan Room of the STUD (Alumni Memorial Building) next to Mem Hall. Snady has played at the Collective twice in the past years and the concerts have been well received. Her repertoire consists of blues, folk and feminist songs. Probably Marc Lulham will be improvising and accompanying her and there will be a few surprise intermission players. Don't miss it, theres sure to be some good sounds coming out, this Sunday evening at the STUD.

Maritime

The Maritime Dance Company stage of preparation for performances of *Macbeth*. After six months of escalating work there remain only a few touches to be added. Shawn Szabo, Shawn Richard, Leslee M. Myster and Kathleen only been working

September and their first major production. Relying on graphic and organizational associate artists Szabo and Driscoll

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