

# arts

## Bleech Christmas

A movie, regardless of where it comes from should stand by itself. Unfortunately, *Black Christmas* now showing at the Londonderry A does not stand alone, rather it needs the qualification that it is a Canadian Film. It does reflect the fact that the Canadian Film Industry has come a long way since *Going Down The Road*. Aside from this qualification I found the movie very poor.

*Black Christmas* deals with the happenings at a women's fraternity house just before the Christmas holidays. A maniac gets loose in the house and kills almost all of the occupants. The events that transpire in the next forty-eight hours really defy description. They are truly the most scary I have seen in a movie for many years. In the promotional literature the movie is billed to lift the skin off our body, it certainly is correct.

The fact that *Black Christmas* is a scare film is unquestionable. However a movie should be more than that. It should start, which this one has trouble doing, and end, which it does not. Reasons why any of the events transpire and how related incidents connect to the main story line are just not evident. I felt that it was a series of contrived incidents put together to create fright.

In terms of production Bob Clark did, not a bad job. Technically the movie rates high, make-up, camera work, etc. are all first class. Acting assignments

are done admirably, special mention for jobs well done to Olivia Hussey (Juliet from *Romeo and Juliet*) and Keir Dullea (from TV's *Starlost*). The rest of the cast is better recognized from Canadian TV commercials than from past movie performances, although some do some very good work.

*Black Christmas* is very scary, make no mistake about that, however from other criteria is it extremely shallow. Scare movies seem to be what people are after (the theatre was completely full), if that is what you want, go see it. It will not, however, loosen your skin, I am still wearing mine.

Jay Fitzgerald



Stevie Wonder at the new Coliseum  
Photo by Rygalo

## John Mayall's Latest Edition

by Nanker Phledge

*The Latest Edition* is John Mayall's newest contribution to the record world. If you are a Mayall fan, the album will not disappoint you in that it is definitely John Mayall in style and character. Mayall has retained the individual and unique style that he's displayed on all his previous albums.

The major difference on this album is Mayall's new mellowness due to an almost complete change of back-up personnel. The only remaining musicians from the Jazz-Blues

album are Larry Taylor on the fretless bass, and Red Holloway on sax. Joining these on *The Latest Edition* are Randy Resnick and Hightide Harris on lead guitars, and Soko Richardson on drums. Mayall plays harmonica, guitar, and handles the vocals. He is also responsible for the lyrics and music on all cuts.

The most notable feature musically is the two lead guitarists. They are reminiscent of Dickie Betts and Duane Allman of Allman Brothers fame, in the way they

complement each other with their individual riffs and licks.

Also notable, is Larry Taylor's bass playing; he's never been better and there's no stopping him now.

Gone with the old musicians is the predominance of boogie and the heavy brass sections that characterized Mayall's last album.

If you liked John Mayall for his boogie, you might be disappointed. If you like Mayall for his blues, then *The Latest Edition* is an album you should pick up on.

## Camino Real

Studio Theatre's next Stage 75 production will be *Camino Real* by Tennessee Williams. Under the direction of Theatre 3's Mark Schoenberg, with stage design by Larry Kadlec, this immensely successful drama by one of America's leading playwrights will run from Thursday, December 5 to Saturday, December 14, at the theatre in Corbett Hall. Performance time is 8:30, excluding Sunday, and there will be a 2:30 matinee performance on Saturday, December 7.

*Camino Real* features the final year's class in the Drama Department's professional theatre training program. Tickets are \$2.50; University students are admitted free of charge. The Box Office is located in Room 3-146 of the Fine Arts Centre, 112 St. & 89 Ave., and it is open Monday to Friday, from 9 in the morning until 12 noon, and again from 1 until 4:30.

## Comedy, tragedy at French Theatre

Last week saw the beginning of the French Theatre's double bill production of *Mlle. Julie* and *N'te Promene donc pas toute Nue* (don't wander around in the nude.) The former is a tragedy and the latter a comedy, both in one act, and both of mediocre quality.

Being at best a semi-fluent bilingualist I would have had to fake my way through most of this review if it weren't for the help of my interpreter. However, I feel I can truthfully state that the production is worthwhile for its cultural aspects if not for its artistic qualities.

All things considered, I think it was worth the expenditure of a few hours of my time, although both plays (a one act comedy and a one act tragedy) were of mediocre quality. A general lack of good direction was evident, and the two male leads were inadequate and rigid. At times their voices were indistinct and faltering, and neither showed a good interpretation of script content.

In the tragedy, *Mlle. Julie*, an ambitious valet persuades an aristocratic Frenchwoman to commit suicide upon failure to gain money from her after a fruitless love affair. It is a striking script, but Frank McMahon's unimaginative, wooden performance as the valet did not do it justice. One feels that Evelyne Foex-Olsen as Mlle. Julie would be capable of a

better performance given better direction.

*N'te Promene donc pas toute Nue* (don't wander around in the nude) is a light situation comedy set in France. It serves to offset the heaviness of the tragedy but they both have the same shortcomings. The play centers around a presidential candidate's wife who shows an improper disregard for keeping her body covered (no she does not do a burlesque routine on

stage). The comedy is adequately amusing, but certainly not exceptional. Gilles Blain as Ventroux showed a poor command of timing and did not contribute much to the humorous effect of the play.

Le Theatre Francais d'Edmonton performs at the College Universitaire St. Jean. The last production date is Dec. 8.

by Kim St. Clair



"I want to get this point across" (French Theatre)

## Christmas Concert

The Department of Music at the University of Alberta will present its annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 8.

The concert, a traditional Christmas event, will be held at All Saints' Cathedral, 10035 -103 St., at 7:30 a.m.

Selections from Handel's "Messiah" will be performed by the Concert Choir and St. Cecilia Orchestra and Corelli's Concerto Op. 6, No. 12 will be performed by the strings of the St. Cecilia Orchestra.

Christmas selections will be performed by the Concert Choir and medieval English carols will be sung by the university's Madrigal Singers.

Festive brass music will be provided by various brass ensembles of the university.

For part of the program, the audience will be invited to join in the singing of carols.

The public is welcome to attend and there is no admission charge.

## Folk Club

Glory Hills will appear at the Garneau United Church (111 St. & 84 Ave) on December 8th, 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$2.00; \$1.00 for Edmonton Folk Club members.

## TV Highlights

WED., DEC. 4

Musicamera - The World of Victor Herbert - This sumptuously-staged special salutes the man who was called, circa 1890-1920, 'king of the American musical'. Canadian soprano Barbara Shuttleworth stars in the extravaganza featuring music from many of Herbert's beloved operettas, among them *Naughty Marietta*, *The Red Mill*, *Eileen*, *Sweethearts* and *The Fortune Teller*. Channel 5.

First Person Singular: Pearson - The Memoirs of a Prime Minister. Part 7 - Diplomat at War (London, 1939-41); The Late Lester B. Pearson's film memoirs continue with his personal recollections of the early years of the Second World War when he found himself First Secretary to Canada's High Commissioner in London, Vincent Massey. With both humor and obvious admiration, Mr. Pearson describes the fortitude with which the British people withstood all onslaughts - from Canadian troops, to German bombs. Channel 5.

FRI., DEC. 6

"Pierrot le fou". Comedy written and produced by Jean Luc Godard, with Jean Paul Belmondo, Anna Karina and Raymond Devos. A man likes his wife to escape with his mistress who belongs to a terrorist gang.