

Einstein play formulated success

Einstein
Kaasa Theatre
Oct. 29 to Nov. 9

review by Roberta Franchuk

How much can you learn about a person in 90 minutes? Probably not a heck of a lot. This is especially true when the person you are talking about has lived 70 years and is one of the greatest scientists ever known.

This time constraint is the major weakness of the one-man play *Einstein* presented by Workshop West at the Kaasa Theatre. Albert Einstein was a fascinatingly complex man, yet the audience is only allowed tantalizingly brief glimpses into his

many facets over short duration of the play.

The material there, is, however, quite fascinating. Peter Boretski, who portrays the master scientist, bears an uncanny resemblance to him. His mannerisms and accent are very realistic, and it is easy for one to believe that you are actually sitting in Einstein's cluttered study, listening to him describe gravity with a tablecloth and an orange, with apologies to Newton.

The Kaasa Theatre is small and intimate, well suited to this type of play. The set is simple — a couple of desks, a chair, a blackboard with what was apparently part of the derivation of a Lorentz transformation equation — and one's

attention is always on Einstein. Einstein's humanity occasionally flashes through his "eccentric genius" veneer. He talks about his first wife: "what a head for chemistry, biology, physics! A girl you could really talk to." He reminisces about his childhood, how his parents thought he was mentally retarded and forced him to train as an electrician — a useful career. He mentions the alienation his first wife felt when he was working days in the patent office and nights on his theories, and she was forced to look after their two sons alone. Yet these are only touched on — we see regret, but are never allowed any further into his feelings of how his work alienated him from the people he loved. This is unfortunate, for it would have humanized the great thinker much more.

Instead, we are allowed to see Einstein's anguish over the use his work had been put to in World War II. The pacifist is responsible for the greatest destructive device ever invented by man, and his thoughts continually return to it. His dilemma is apparent, and he wrestles with

it throughout the play. Boretski is very good at demonstrating the contradictions of the man, one minute complaining because his wife forces him to "sleep for eight hours. All at once. And it must be at night", the next describing how the Nazi government threatened to drag him through the streets by the hair if he ever returned to Germany.

Quotable lines abound in the play, many that Einstein actually did create himself — "God is subtle, but he is not malicious." There are many indications of Einstein's sense of humor, such as his impersonation of the seventh grade teacher who ejected him from the classroom because, "you ask too many questions. And even when you don't ask questions, you have a look like you are going to ask a question."

There is much in this play to recommend it to anyone interested in Einstein's life, but it is by no means the most complete chronicling. It is more of a brief taste, rather than a full meal one must take home and digest.

Making Waves

by Dragos Ruiu

Politicians are misguided.
It's that simple.

First there was the brilliant idea of Canadian content regulations. Then, there were the inspired book tariffs. Now **they are planning to tax cassette tapes and tape recorders.** There is no politician like a dead politician.

Let's face it, the majority of people don't really give a crap who broke off diplomatic ties with who. They care about eating, not having a war, and entertainment. So when they screw around with our music, people will grumble, but they will accept it; like income tax.

If these suggested surcharges go through, the cost of listening to music will go up at least 30 per cent. So, who cares. Why, Hell, I always thought albums, CDs, tapes, and stereos were too cheap anyhow. Too competitive with movies and other entertainment.

The glorious government's intervention into media started with 'Content Regulations'. This was to make sure that Canada maintains its 'Cultural Identity' (ooohh, ahhh!) and is not subverted by all that propaganda like *Miami Vice*. Yeah, folks, Ottawa is rooting for you.

The first question is: Just what is Canada's *Cultural Identity*? As far as I see it, Canada is a mosaic of different ethnic groups (Native, French, Ukrainian, Scots, etc...) all fighting to maintain their *original* heritage. I don't ever recall seeing the *Canadian Students' Association*, do you?

Then the boys on Parliament Hill decided that they were going to really hurt them Amurricans by slapping duties on high tech imports and books because their toothpick factories get some tax break that ours don't! Oh boy, that will hurt them badly. Almost all the books we read in Canada, are printed Down There. Yeah, stop it or . . . or . . . I'll bite my leg off! Then you'll see!

It seems like the government is



attempting to stop information coming into Canada. Good thought boys, better keep us ignorant so we don't get too riled by all this.

Now, it's going to be proposed that all blank cassette tapes and recording tape decks be heavily taxed. Why? Good question. To stop all those heinous music pirates, and protect those poor little old *starving* record companies, OF COURSE.

This ludicrous idea is trendy Down South too. Politicians everywhere are jumping on the bandwagon. "Yeah, besides this will stop the spread of that evil music stuff too. Yeah!"

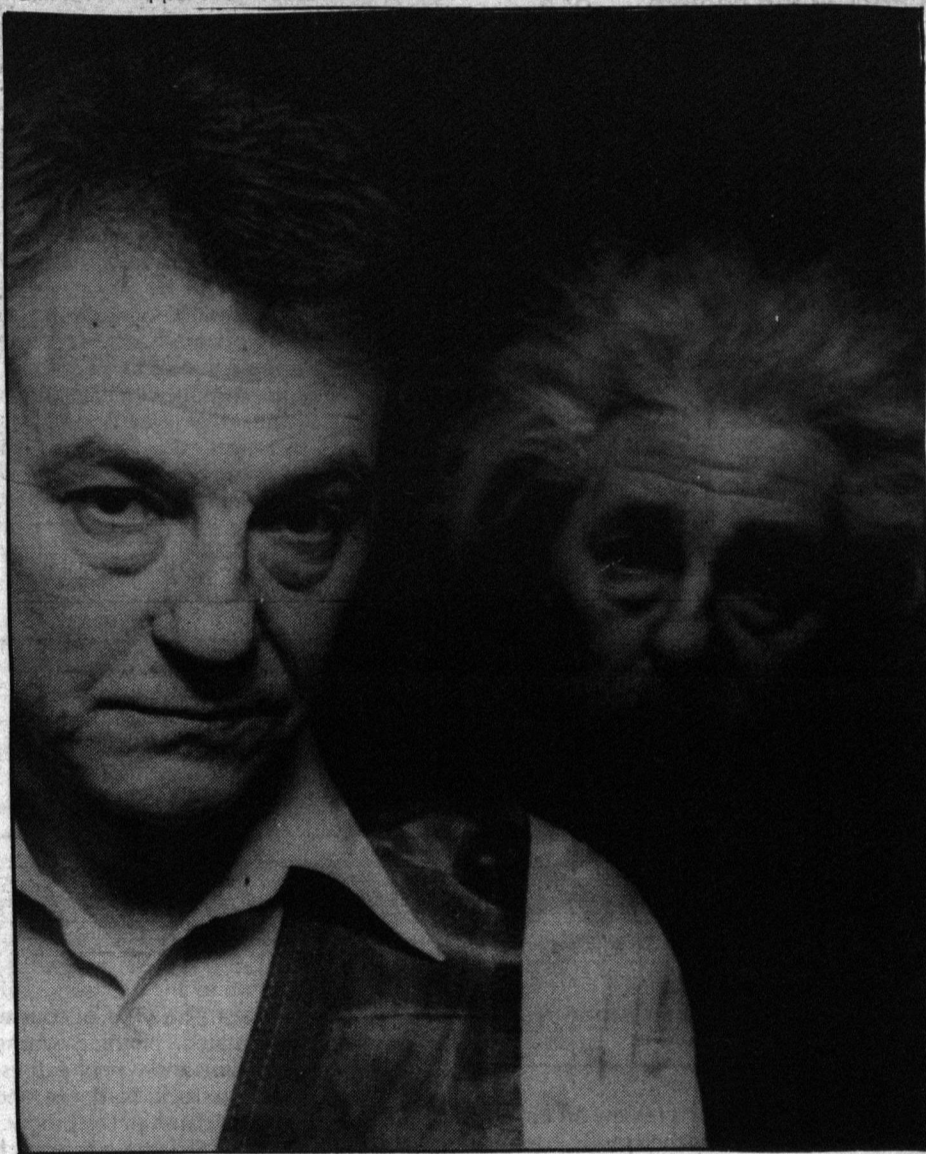
The BIG problem is that all the politico types agree with this stand. This is *not* a hotly contested issue. The music industry is *not* going to stand up for us peons, not with megabucks involved. The price of listening to music will be government enforced! (Heil, comrade!)

Just about the only big boys on our side are the stereo companies, and they do not have a lot of pull. The Sony lobby just doesn't care. They can sell a few more TV's and not even notice the difference.

So, it's up to us. Joe Nobody and Co. Write your MP, write your Senator. You might get lucky and they might die from a paper-cut.

signed:

Mothers Against Politicians



Staffers!

Don't forget
to attend
the Staff
meeting Thurs.
Nov. 6th
4:30 p.m.

Agenda: C.U.P.
Conference,
business
cards,
etc.

WINTER SESSION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

Challenging positions are now available for post-secondary students in Edmonton City, Edmonton Region, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, and Red Deer regions as:

JOB SEARCH PRESENTERS

To be considered you must have:

- ★ current post-secondary student status
- ★ knowledge of the region
- ★ good public speaking skills
- ★ experience working with youth
- ★ access to your own transportation and be willing to travel to outlying communities within a given region
- ★ a school schedule which will allow you to work variable daytime hours and attend a training session in Edmonton, January 23 - 25, 1987.

Working under the direction of the local Hire A Student committee, you will conduct presentations on job search techniques to secondary students, interact with educators and prepare reports.

This position is part-time (minimum 40 hours/month) January to April and full-time May and June 1987. The wage is \$8.00/hour plus travel expenses.

Competition closes November 14, 1986. Interviews will be held in early January, 1987.

Applicants are asked to submit a resume, a copy of their winter session timetable and an indication of preferred location to:

Hire A Student Resource Section
Career Development and Employment
2nd Floor, Sun Building, 10363 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1L8



Hire A Student

For further information, call the Hire A Student Resource Section collect at 427-0115.

WRITING COMPETENCE PETITIONS

Notice to students who have not met the University's writing competence requirements and whose deadline for meeting those requirements occurs on or before November 1986 or January 1987: **If you plan to enroll in the second term of Winter Session 1986-1987 or any subsequent term and you have not yet passed the writing competence test, you may petition the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee for permission to continue your registration.**

Registrations of students who do not successfully petition or pass the writing competence test will be cancelled prior to the start of classes.

Advice on preparing and submitting petitions can be sought from the Student Ombudsmen, Room 272 Students' Union Building, or the Student Advisors in the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Room 300 Athabasca Hall. The regulations and procedures used by the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee are available in either of these offices.

Hearings will be held from November 25-28. The deadline for submitting petitions is Thursday, November 13, 1986.