

Reese is cooking in Doris and Laura

Interview by Carole Amerongen

Barbara Reese is rehearsing for her part in the upcoming Nexus Theatre production of *Doris and Laura*. The new two-hander, written by Albertan Don Lemna, features Reese as Doris and Doreen Ibsen as Laura. Both will be under the guiding hand of the Nexus' new artistic director, John Milton Branton.

Doris and Laura, a comic drama, concerns the Christmas Eve reunion of two sisters, years after leaving the Swift Current farm they grew up on. According to Reese, "a lot from the days of their youth has not been resolved." Their parents died when they were teenagers, and Laura had to care for Doris. While Laura is quite conservative, Doris is

band, a U of A Education professor, established themselves in Edmonton, she picked up where she left off. First Reese trained and performed at the Citadel when it opened. Now her work is well known all over Western Canada.

Reese says two-handers are difficult sometimes because when there is only two players, "you really have to carry it." Naturally more characters mean more support. However, Reese is finding her first time working with John Milton Branton pleasant. "We have a very small group," she explains, "and he makes it comfortable for us."

In her last two-hander, *Sweet and Sour Pickles*, Reese and another actor had to actually make pickles in the course of the play. "Over the weeks I made hundreds and hundreds of pickles," Reese amusingly adds. "I never made any pickles at home after that." In *Doris and Laura*, the sisters must make scones. Cooking on stage may begin to be her trademark.

Playwright Don Lemna won the 1987 Alberta Theatre Project's "Experience Speaks" one-act play competition for *Doris and Laura*. Reese feels there are "an awful lot of plays and playwrights in Canada. I wish there were some place for our best plays to go after they've been across the country."

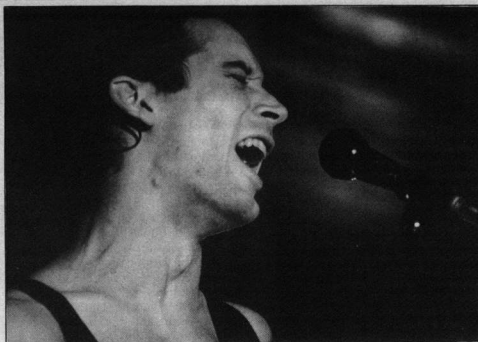
Most recently, Reese played in *Millions of Canadians* at the Fringe. Her next project is a role in a CBC drama in January. Before that, however, she can be seen at the movie theatres in the soon-to-be-released *House-keeping*, a movie shot in Nelson, B.C. about a year ago.

Of course right now she can be caught in the Nexus Theatre's current production, which runs until December 19 at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays or during lunch hour showings through the week. Judging from her wit and spirit, Barbara Reese promises to be entertaining in *Doris and Laura*.

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very sensitive. She yearns for the affection she never gets. As a result, Doris "carries this thing around with her all her life. Not that she is bitter," Reese adds. "She just really needs affection from her sister, especially on Christmas Eve." Reese assures us that the women are both comical and realistic and that "the play is touching."

Barbara Reese received some formal training in Wisconsin, where she grew up, but she put her acting on hold when she married and raised a family. After she and her hus-



54-40 belts out a song.

Photo Rob Galbraith



Play List

LPS

- TW LW WO ARTIST
- 1 21 2 JANE SIBERRY
- 2 1 THE OYSTER BAND
- 8 2 THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
- 4 3 3 THE HOUSEMARTINS

- 5 4 4 THE GRAPES OF WRATH
- 6 1 3 FRITH/FRENCH/KAISER/THOMPSON
- 7 27 2 ROY FORBES (AKA BIM)
- 8 19 2 PRETTY GREEN
- 9 16 2 SCREAMING BLUE MESSIAHS
- 10 - 1 PAUL CRAM ORCHESTRA

SINGLES

- 1 4 3 TALK PROPER
- 2 1 3 PREISON'S SHADE
- 3 - 1 COMMUNARDS
- 4 3 5 BIG STICK
- 5 6 2 SHY BOY
- 6 5 4 THE CATTLE
- 7 2 5 SONS OF THE DESERT
- 8 8 5 POP DEFECT
- 9 7 4 HOPPING PENGUINS
- 10 9 6 PURE JOYS

- ALBUM
- THE WALKING
- WIDE BLUE YONDER
- THE SPLIT MOJO PARTY PLAN
- THE PEOPLE WHO GRINNED THEMSELVES
- TREEHOUSE
- LIVE LOVE LARF & LOAF
- LOVE TURNS TO ICE
- PRETTY GREEN
- BIKINI RED
- BEYOND BENGHAZI
- SINGLE/EP
- "TWO CLYS OF THEM"
- "RACE ME HOME"
- "TOMORROW" EP
- "CRACK ATTACK"
- "AGE OF ATOMIC LOVE"
- "THE CATTLE" EP
- "33'45"
- "DEVIL IN MY POCKET"
- "2% MILK RAP"
- "PURE JOY"

- LABEL/DISTRIBUTOR/ORIGIN
- DUKE STREET/MCA
- COOKING VINYL FESTIVAL
- MANHATTAN/CAPTOL-EMI
- CHRYSALIS/MCA(1)
- NETTWERK/CAPTOL-EMI/CC
- RHINO/US
- FESTIVAL/CC
- NETTWERK/CAPTOL-EMI/CC
- WEA
- APPARTITION/CC

- X-CELL/CC
- AMOK/CC
- LONDON/POLYGRAM
- BUY OUR RECORDS/US
- ATOMIC/CC
- ADDED/US
- DESSERT/CC
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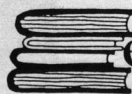
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