

Entertainment

Sir Michael astounds at Burton

Redgrave revues "seasons of Shakespeare"

By MICHAEL HOLLETT

Sir Michael Redgrave and his touring production of "Shakespeare's People" rolled into York's Burton Auditorium last Thursday and left with a cheering audience on its feet calling for more.

"Shakespeare's People" is "a celebration of Shakespeare in words and song". It includes excerpts from his works as well as writings about him.

Redgrave said that by performing segments of Shakespeare's works rather than one entire production, it allowed him to take Shakespeare on the road without the great costs that an entire touring company and its props would have entailed.

The production is structured around the "four seasons" of

Shakespeare's career, opening with the spring and ending with winter. The scenes performed were chosen to follow this chronology, thus the company opened with scenes from Hamlet and As You Like It and ended with a scene from The Tempest.

"Shakespeare's People" was well paced with a good mix of humorous and serious scenes as well as occasional songs. The pacing along with linking commentary read by members of the cast served to make "Shakespeare's People" work as a whole rather than being a sort of K-Tel collection of Shakespeare's greatest hits.

It was an unadorned production without the elaborate costumes one associates with a Shakespeare play. The cast wore simple clothes

and the stage was bare except for the chairs they sat on between scenes.

The production stood on Shakespeare's words and the strength of the acting. Shakespeare is always a pleasure to see performed and the acting was at times outstanding.

Besides Redgrave the cast included David Dodimead, himself an older man, as well as two younger performers Philip Bowen and Elizabeth Counsell. Rod Willmott sang most of the songs and accompanied himself on guitar and lute.

Redgrave owned the stage when he performed and proved he is still the actor who earned a reputation as one of the greats of our time. He moved and spoke with self-assured easiness that the younger performers were unable to match. He was at times hilarious, at times tragic but always captivating.

His reading of the Seven Ages of Man from "As You Like It" was a dramatic highlight of the performance. Redgrave, who is 68, allowed every year to show on his body as he read soliloquy on the life of man. Suffering from Parkinson's disease, Redgrave used the shaking of his arm to heighten the awesome intensity of the scene. He did this with a dignity that deeply moved the audience.

Every time Redgrave spoke he was outstanding. His characters

included King Lear being reunited with Cornelia, Richard II returning from Ireland and Macbeth before and after the murder of Duncan.

David Dodimead was also very good and he played many of the numerous roles including Falstaff and Benedick from "Much Ado About Nothing". The younger performers were far from consistent with Elizabeth Counsell being especially poor. Her performances lacked life and at times her only talent seemed to be an ability to speak with perfect diction in an English accent.

Philip Bowen suffered from the same weakness in his performance though he was able to surmount them more often. He was good as young Hamlet contemplating his father's revenge and as a shepherd

in a scene from "The Winter's Tale".

The musician, Rod Willmott also lacked the confident easiness of Redgrave and Dodimead in his singing though the played well.

Despite these weaknesses, Redgrave's stupendous performance along with Dodimead's good acting and the timeless excellence of Shakespeare himself ensured the success of the production.

After the performance, Redgrave made a comment about receptions that seemed to apply both to his career and the evening's entertainment. He said, "After a number of receptions you go home and lie in bed and think, 'it was a jolly good party'".



Photo show at Stong

'Photographic Masterworks' is the current exhibit at the Zacks Gallery, in Stong College (109) November 4th to the 21st, 1-7 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday. The show is a collection of works of 23 photographers from the 1850's to the present. Small format type negatives taken by 35 mm cameras and prints made from 11 x 14 negatives contacted onto the printing medium are included in this international salon.

Sam Haskins, using the 35mm camera, has built a reputation on his spontaneous fashion work which can be seen in the major fashion magazines and advertisements the world over. Female nudes in the high contrast technique exemplify the black and white tones of the medium.

These are in contrast the carefully designed works of the late American west coast photographer, Edward Weston. By using the 8 x 10 camera which can produce the finest graduations of continuous tonality (that is, express the range of black to grey to white), Weston painstakingly developed his own individual style.

The photographs of Paul Strand continue in the vein of Weston, which is to make the viewer interact with the photograph and therefore with the photographer.

This exhibit is structured to show the potential of the medium, the methods of photographers and some of the photographs which have survived the test of time. What makes a photograph great is a subtle ability of talents, vision and technical virtuosity of an artist using an instrument to confront the world.

Film freebies every Thursday

By LAURENCE TURIER

Tonight marks the rebirth of a unique film series at York: The Wednesday Free Film series of last year presented a number of films that were not otherwise shown in Toronto.

Last year's series served to attract a small, but devoted following. This year, the series has been changed to Thursday nights, and this year organizers Davidson and Dancyger have planned many nights of the series to deal with

subjects above which the moves. For instance, December 2, two films will be shown dealing with the battle of the sexes.

This week, the feature of THFFS is "Les Enfants du Paradis". In this 1944 French classic, Director Marcel Carne and writer Jacques Prevert focus on a "loving recreation" of 19th century French popular theatre. It is the most famous film produced in France during the German occupation of World War Two.

All films in the Thursday Free Film Series take place in Curtis L and start at 7:00 pm.

CKRY-FM

This Week on CKRY:

Friday, 11:00 am: "Tomorrow-Will the Raven Sing", second part of a continuing series about the people of the Canadian Northland.

8:00 pm: The York hockey Yeomen take on the U of T Blues in a live broadcast of an exhibition game. Commentator: Ian Wasserman.

Saturday, 8:30 pm: CKRY presents the movie, "Everything you Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask) starring Woody Allen. Also featured: a York student film, "Twilight Gallery". Admission is \$1.50

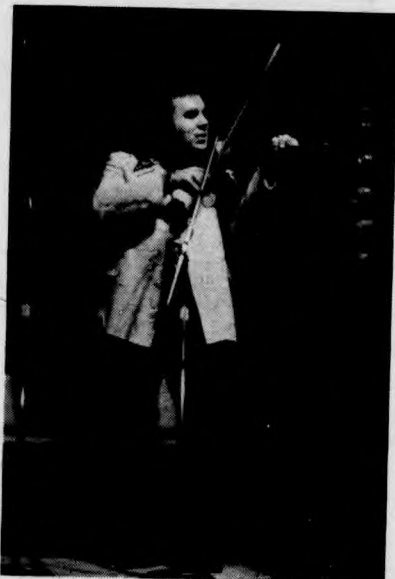
Monday, 3:00 pm: An interview with Mick Jagger.

Wednesday, noon: "The Tuesday Show" - Hosts Craig Noble

2:00 pm: Brand Meslin continues to Fight Student Apathy at York with his "Protest Music part II".

Thursday, noon: More live New Music concerts direct from 012 Stacie.

Conference gives exposure to unknowns



By EVAN LEIBOVITCH

This weekend, the RPM Talent Buyers Conference rolled into the posh Hotel Toronto to entertain, to teach, but also to sell.

First of its kind, the conference was held by RPM magazine, the trade paper of the recording industry, to provide exposure to many local bands looking for some gigs, and to introduce many newcomers to the Canadian music industry. Many major promoters were in attendance, showing some interest in booking a few of the bands as openers for major acts. Michel Cohl, president of Concert Productions in Toronto was in attendance, as well as Donald K. Donald.

As well, many smaller scale

promoters came, representing various student councils from as far away as PEI. Many Toronto campuses were represented, but the only buyer from York was Mark Benetar, representing Bethune; CYSF did not feel the need to send a delegate.

The conference was split into three rough segments during the weekend, which packed 40 hours of activity into its three days. The first consisted of seminars, which covered a wide range of topics. Among them were; record promotion; artist-repertoire development; national tours; taxation; and careers in the industry.

The participants in the conference had two separate opportunities to experience the bands on display. Some of the artists had recording contracts; other were looking for any break they could find; (As I walked into one performance, I noticed that it has been playing for quite a while in an empty room; a depressing experience for any artist) The informal displays were put on during Sunday afternoons, when some groups set up "hospitality suites" in their hotel rooms, and others had booked (for a fair buck, I imagine) rooms on the main conference floor to exhibit their talent to anyone who would listen. Others were more fortunate, and got the opportunity to perform during the showcases, which ran all three nights, and featured five bands each night on

five stages. Some of the more notable bands featured over the weekend were:

Bonfield-Dickson; this duet of Jim Duchesneau and Henri Audet, recording on the Ahmek label, have a fairly unique style of singing either with minimal backing live, or on their heavily orchestrated album.

Bob Luxton; a soloist who could wipe out Lightfoot in a walk.

Hot Roxx; a Stones imitation who want to challenge the Ramones to a street fight.

Maple Sugar; a blast from the country's past, featuring what may be the only type of folk music that could be called native Canadian. Their concert also featured fiddler

Graham Townsend (see picture left) who was rather amazed when the rock oriented crowd called him back for an encore.

Ron Baumber; one of the most active participants at the convention was Ixtlan records, Baumber's label. His own music, including a single, "China Doll", found a niche among the highly critical audience.

Robbie Rox (below); A band with instrumentation like Chicago, with upbeat though forgettable music, but a stage show that includes flash bombs, strobes, and especially Robbie, who danced, swore, and took complete command of the band and the audience during their set.



Robbie Rox and his tuxedoed band play for the RPM Talent Buyers Conference.