

## Actress collapses in Act 1

# Neptune play exciting, enjoyable

by Beth Burke

Neptune Theatre opened its winter season with a production of Carlo Goldoni's farce "The Servant of Two Masters" — a performance that will long be remembered in the annals of

stage history.

Just before the end of Act I, Tedde Moore, in the role of Beatrice of Turin, fell ill and had to be carried off the stage. For a few moments it was as if an electric current had been

shot throughout the audience but Diector, Robert Sherrin appeared and announced that 'the play will go on!' For the rest of Act I, Stage manager, Chris Banks, read in Miss Moore's lines, followed by the

assistant stage manager, Bruce Blakemore, in Act II. Despite the difficulties such a substitution presented the Neptune Players managed to carry it off with a kind of finesse that is rarely seen these days. They won the audience over completely.

"Two Masters" opens with a stage bare of actors, showing only a simple Venician setting. A lone musician takes his place in a corner prepared to add the musical charm of his guitar to the mood of the play.

Suddenly the cast burst onto the stage as if out of the woodwork and one is thrown back to the days of medieval fairs with gusty characters in colorful costumes.

The cast of "Two Masters" is drawn from some of the best actors in North America. Tony van Bridge, as Dr. Lombardi, portrays an eccentric old man who totters flatfootedly across the stage spouting Latin phrases at every opportune occasion. Complementing van Bridge is James Valentine as the loveable, ancient, creaking, gasping Pantalone whose sinility reflects a youthful Don Juan.

Brian McKay plays Silvio, the son of Dr. Lombardi and the betrothed of Clarice (Susan Hogan), the daughter of Pantalone. They typify the shyness, the impulsiveness, the frustrations and the idealisms of young love.

Contrasted with the young lovers is the sophisticated passion of Beatrice of Turin (Tedde Moore) and Florindo Aretusi of Turin (David Renton). Miss Moore portrays all the bravado and courage it

takes for a young woman to dress up in her brother's clothes and face his enemies. She is complemented by the excellent performance of David Renton as he struts with dignity about the stage in perfect control of every situation.

The most significant contrasts developed out of the earthy difference between the servants and peasantry and the aristocracy.

Douglas Chamberlain is remembered for his happy knack of making an audience hoot with laughter and is no less the comic as he buffoons his way through "Two Masters". Without a strong comedian like Chamberlain, the performance would fall flat on its face. It is around the antics of Truffaldino that the action of the farce evolves, as he tries his hand at "moonlighting" for two masters. As Truffaldino, Chamberlain eeks out all the gait, buffoonery and wit that makes the play work.

Clarice's maidservant is played by Nicola Lipman, a buxum lass who is simply 'busting out' as she taunts and teases her way through the performance.

Grant Cowan as Brighella, an innkeeper, and Micheal Hogan and Lionel Simmons as the porters and waiters do their best to add some sobriety to the farce and to stymie Truffaldino's plans.

On the whole Neptune presents an exciting and enjoyable performance of "The Servant of Two Masters", which is perhaps the result of a complete co-operative effort between the director, cast and production crew.



Douglas Chamberlain as Truffaldino, Nicola Lipman as Smeraldina in a scene from "The Servant of Two Masters" at Neptune Theatre, 1971-72.

(john evans photography ltd./ottawa)

## Festival Singers effective

by Alison Manzer

The Festival Singers of Canada presented the evening program, to commemorate the opening of the Rebecca Cohn Arts Center Friday, November 19.

The audience was small but

enthusiastic and gave the choir ample applause throughout. In fact, the performance ended with a standing ovation for both the conductor, Elmer Isler, and the singers.

The program was varied and allowed for several variations within the groups of selections. The main criticism of the selections was that they seemed somewhat untimely. The concert consisted of Christmas music selections, which seemed out of place in November and at an academic building opening.

Technical perfection was a strong point in the performance. The choir showed both voice control and the ability to execute difficult harmonization. However, the choir seemed to be striving so hard for effect that at times the music was overshadowed.

The selections, particularly the opening one, became so involved with harmonizing and counterpoint that both the original melody and the words were lost in the resulting confusion. This could be taken as either fault or credit depending on musical tastes, but the special musical effects did seem to be overdone.

The voices were exceptional with particularly fine pitch displayed by those who did solo pieces. Unfortunately, the quality and richness of the group was shown only occasionally as most of the songs seemed to be done almost in a whisper.

The potential and achievements of the choir are tremendous and they seem to deserve at least some of the praise presented in their publicity sketches.

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## Wargames

There will be a wargaming tournament at Saint Mary's University November 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 4th floor Biology-Chemistry building. All university students and interested public are cordially invited to attend.

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## Dal power in weight-lifting

Two Dalhousie students had outstanding performances in the Nova Scotia Power-Lifting competition held in Halifax November 20.

Richard G. Haugan, third year philosophy major, grabbed first place in the heavyweight division with a total of 1125 lbs., 110 lbs. more than the second place finisher.

In the 165 pound class, Dominic Goduto, a second year Arts student, placed second behind Doug Boudreau of Halifax. Goduto had total lifts of 1085 while Boudreau had 1125. Goduto's performance was especially impressive when it is considered that Boudreau is a seasoned competitor and has

won several titles, including Mr. Eastern Canada.

Both Haugan and Goduto are residents of the Cameron House, Howe Hall.



(bozo photo)

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