

entertainment

Andre Gagnon well received

By THERESA BUNBURY

Andre Gagnon played to an enthusiastic full house last Friday at The Playhouse. In a standing ovation indicative of their appreciation of the new and familiar music, the audience applauded to the tune of two encores.

This performance in Fredericton, as well as being the first step of Andre Gagnon's new tour which is taking off in the Maritimes was his first time ever performing before a Fredericton audience. He expressed his liking for The Playhouse theatre and indicated his intention to come again to Frederic-

ton where he has such a warm reception.

The major new score of the evening was a song entitled *Theme and Variations* which as its name suggests, was based on a theme and several variations. The piano introduced the theme which was then taken up at various different moments by the xylophone, violin and piano as variations. There was also a very effective section by the drums.

The musicians played a total of fourteen pieces. Several of which were familiar pieces such as *Neiges* and a gentle piece called *Night Flight* written for the CBS film of the same name taken from

the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Performed for the first time in public, before "real people" as Gagnon said were songs such as *La Chevachee/Cavalcade*, a song about wild horses before they are made captive; and *Deux Jours a la Compagne/Two Days in the Country*, written about the contentment of resting after the frantic travelling of a tour. These two pieces presented near the beginning of the evening provided a pleasant contrast to each other. In fact the entire performance was well structured in this way.

Another exciting new song was *Une fois Pour Toute/Once and For All*. An almost baroque tone was set by the violins and was quickly supplemented by the rhythmic piano and drums. Andre Gagnon claims that he wrote this piece in protest to the rumor that disco had taken him over.

Gagnon not only performs his music to a T but he is also a bit of a show man, thus making the concert that much more entertaining. He spoke well in French and when speaking in English made light of his mistakes, assuring the audience that Carol Burnett was his teacher and that soon he would have her accent.

Performing with Gagnon was an excellent backup group consisting of: first violin; second violin; alto violin; flute; keyboards; guitar; drums, and percussion.

The concert was well presented and excellently performed. The lighting was good although I would perhaps have preferred to have seen all the musicians a bit



Andre Gagnon

more. The sound was good too. We were also able to distinguish the piano nearly all the time, which was a rarity at a concert. Indeed one would have been quite disappointed if unable to hear Andre Gagnon's marvelous

playing. The timing between Gagnon and his musicians was very well accomplished. Neither one nor the other was too strong. Generally, an enjoyable, polished concert was presented to the Fredericton public.

Fame reviewed

By VICKI FORRESTER

Another summer film has blossomed and faded. *Fame*, directed by Alan Parker and choreographed by Louis Falco is an energetic romp through the cliches of the performing arts. It succeeds in happily providing entertainment without the annoying burden of having to associate thoughts with the visual and audio sensations.

From the beginning of the film, it is obvious that the pacing (rather than plot development, for example) will provide and maintain the impetus of activity. As the aspiring young performers audition for scholarship positions in a technical high school, an overlapping sound and sight system of editing emphasizes the sense of repetition. One segment of an audition provides a cue for a temporally unrelated response in another interview, gradually elevating the process to the general case.

A few exceptions do manage to exist in this anonymity. Says one candidate to another decoratively pierced competitor, "Does that hurt or is it ethnic?" For the most part, the director has kept the screen area amply employed

throughout this sequence. A strong and flexible musical score provides the ideal thread in linking the fast-moving scenes in this portion and throughout the film. Though forgettable, the music is encouraging, vital and optimistic in tone.

The development of the characters over their period of study at the school follows a pattern vaguely reminiscent of *A Chorus Line*. The young people in this study do not exist in a vacuum, however. Ambitious mothers and proud papas are instead included in the struggle. Well portrayed by actors perhaps slightly too old for their roles, each of the focal characters manages to convince the viewer of his sincerity.

Hints of the films made in the late 1960's and early 70's tradition of *Godspell* abound. It would be only too easy to succumb to the temptation of applying to *Fame* such phrases as a "celebration of youth," and "a refreshing exercise in optimism" indeed.

Fame is an entertaining film even if music means only violins and pianos and "dance" means ear-rubbing leg stretches.

The movie appearing this week at the Gaiety is *The Mountain Men*.

This fall at the Aitken Centre

The Aitken Centre has started its fall season with a host of entertaining events, the next of which will be the Lipizzan Stallions October 1. The Canadian Men's volleyball team will play the U.S. men's national team October 2.

Valdy will be making an appearance October 8. Between October 9 and 11, the centre will be used for the International Reading Association convention.

The Harlem Globetrotters will play October 13 and on the new

portable hardwood floor, which was recently acquired by the centre. The Chinese Acrobats of Canton will perform October 23.

The Red Raiders will use the new floor November 28 when they meet the team from St. Francis Xavier University. The last event of the fall season will be the Devon Baptist Church - sponsored Christmas concert December 1.

For more information, contact Gordon A. LeBel, 453-3555.

Reveen, the famed impossibilist, will present the World Premiere of his completely new illusion show *MAGIK* at The Playhouse in Fredericton for one week only, opening Monday, September 29 with a Gala Theatre New Brunswick Benefit.

In the great tradition of Kellar, Houdini, Thurston and Dante - onstage and in person - Reveen will present 3000 years of mysteries. *MAGIK* is a festival of incredible light, stupendous sound, beautiful costumes and lavish stage sets. It is an extraordinary live spectacle of fantasy and 36 grand illusions, including 7 brand new major illusions.

For over 15 years Reveen has thrilled, amazed and convulsed audiences in much of Canada with concert presentations of hypnosis and memory. For a few years in the 1970's Reveen went back to his first love, magic and presented a lavish magic show in Las Vegas and selected cities in North America. These shows were hailed by critics as the finest magic shows in the last half century. However, his commitments and bookings for concert demonstrations of hypno-

sis demanded most of his time during recent years.

The increased popularity and enthusiasm for magic is something that Reveen can no longer resist. For the last two years, between touring with his wife and four sons he has devoted his time to refining, developing and producing an amalgam of his original magic show with a host of new costumes, props, lights, music, fantasy and brand new illusions not being presented on any stage anywhere in the world today.

Reveen will be assisted by his beautiful wife, Coral, who he vanishes, atomises, saws in half, stretches, levitates, crushes and fires from a cannon; three of his dynamic sons; Tyrone, Calvin and Peter Jr. and half a dozen beautiful show girls.

The premiere tour of this lavish new spectacular is in Reveen's adopted country - Canada. First stop is Fredericton, New Brunswick, site of the World Premiere and the only Maritime engagement on the tour. Reveen and his troupe of over twenty assistants and performers have already moved two trailer loads of

equipment into The Playhouse in Fredericton in preparation for the Opening on September 29. Two weeks of intensive rehearsals and personal appearances by Reveen will lead up to the big day.

On Monday evening, September 29, at 8 p.m. the Opening Night performance of the World Premiere of *MAGIK*, Reveen will be staging a Benefit for Theatre New Brunswick. All the proceeds from the door that night will go to the efforts of the theatre. The evening promises to be a gala event, with over 25 beautiful door prizes donated by local merchants, including a GE Jet 91 Microwave Oven as Grand Prize from Medjucks; complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres at intermission and after the show; and an opportunity to meet Reveen in person. Formal dress is optional and tickets are on sale now.

Reveen's *MAGIK* will continue at The Playhouse until October 5 with shows nightly at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5. Tickets for the Gala Benefits and other performances are available from The Playhouse Box Office, 455-3222.

SEPTEMBER

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