

Donnellys - part one

by J.L. Round

The mysteriously-initialled ND-WT Company (no one's talking yet) gave the first of three Halifax performances at the Neptune Theatre Monday with "Sticks And Stones", part one of the Donnelly trilogy, on their national tour. This is the first of the plays in the trilogy written by James Reaney, poet and professor, who worked with the company in developing the trilogy. This first play was runner-up for the Chalmer's Award as best Canadian play of 1973. The second, "The St. Nicholas Hotel", won the award in 1974. "Handcuffs", the third in the series, has been nominated for

1975.

Directed by Keith Turnbull, this excellent, youthful company gave a first-rate performance of the narrative collage depicting the well-known story of the violent lives of the famous Irish-immigrant family, the black Donnellys. Coming to Canada from Ireland to settle in Biddulph, Ontario in the mid-1800's in order to escape the name "blackfeet" and the irreligious wars between the green and orange factions, the Donnellys soon find themselves back among those who would make them choose sides or suffer for not doing so.

The company works like a very sleek, well-oiled machine. Their finely synchronized efforts and dexterity give them a very solid and smooth form. They are a well-knit group with excellent standards. Coupled to this, the play sparkles and the true lives of the Donnellys emerge from the simple, basic scenery and props, the abstractive representationalism, the accusations and recriminations and joys

and pleasures of the enemies and friends of the Donnellys and the Donnellys themselves. The violent and harsh aspects of their lives is well-brought out but never dwelled on too explicitly. For the most part, the Donnellys tried to stay away from the violence and ignore the taunts and threats by neighbours and townspeople. It was for this reason they left Ireland. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but...

Two tiny operas

Two small operas will be presented by Dalhousie Cultural Activities in co-operation with Dalhousie's Department of Music, in Studio One, Dalhousie Arts Centre on Wednesday, December 3 at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, December 4, at 12:30 p.m., Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6 at 8:30 p.m. There will be no charge for admission, however, tickets must be picked up at the Dalhousie Arts Centre Box Office.

The two small operas to be performed by the students and some members of the faculty of Dalhousie's Department of Music, are "The Medium", by Gian Carlo Menotti and "Trouble in Tahiti" by Leonard Bernstein. Director, Philip May, sees the performance of these small operas as "an opportunity to prepare senior music students for heavier, more demanding opera

roles".

Of "The Medium" the composer himself has written, "Despite its eerie setting and gruesome conclusions, The Medium is actually a play of ideas. It describes the tragedy of a woman caught between two worlds, a world of reality which she cannot wholly comprehend, and a supernatural world in which she cannot believe. Baba, the Medium, has no scruples in cheating her clients until something happens which she herself has not prepared." Soprano, Elvira Gonnella, of Dalhousie's Voice Department, will sing the role of the Medium.

The set for both productions has been designed by David Marden, with stage direction by Philip May and musical direction by Eleanor May.

Elton John here?

by Saltwater Sam and Pinto

(1) At the second weekly meeting of the Entertainment Committee, a moderate gathering of sixty odd students met in Room 218, to partake in the free refreshments that were served. The friendly atmosphere and the free refreshments combined to provide a suitable environment for the subsequent discussion on upcoming events.

Much of the discussion centered around the proposed Elton John concert to be held in the Grawood Lounge. Some of the students present were concerned about the ability of the Grawood to seat those who would wish to see him. (But as we all know the Grawood can handle just about anything---including a few motley performers and lost Graduate students). After due reflection the assembly ex-

pressed unanimous confidence in any measure that the Entertainment Committee might take.

It was at this point that Trixie, Earth-a-quake and Passion Flower introduced a motion to ensure that they would have sole access to Elton John during intermission. As with the preceding topic, this motion occasioned much heated debate among the interested parties. After many carefully veiled innuendoes concerning the girls' intentions, the resolution was rejected on the grounds that Elton wouldn't last through all three of them.

With this positive record of nothing accomplished behind them, the Entertainment Committee's plant in the audience suggested that the members of the Committee be paid for their unstinting efforts in formulating Entertainment policy.

Although this suggestion met with applause, cheers and whistles, the Committee members felt obliged to graciously refuse this tempting offer,---it being contrary to their collective public spirit.

The meeting was then adjourned amid the cheers of a standing ovation and the three Committee members were triumphantly carried out on their

comrades' shoulders. And ah, oh yes, Messers. Coughlan, Robertson and Malcolm asked if we would convey their appreciation of the support shown by the students and furthermore that they hope to see everyone and more at the next meeting on Dec. 1, in Room 218 at 12:30. And now its time to ride off into the sunset for yet another week. Hi Yo Pinto And Away!



CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE SUB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

SERVED FROM 11:30 - 5:30 pm IN SUB CAFETERIA

MENU :

ROAST TURKEY AND DRESSING

JUICY VEGETABLES

PLUM PUDDING AND MINCE PIE FOR DESSERT.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRICE :

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WINE AND BEER AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT PRICES

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