

Art nouveau, Bach, ballet

Isn't it great to come to the end of another hectic, fun-filled, work-packed, sleepless week?

I bet you're looking forward to a quiet evening at home tonight, complete with roaring log fire and good thick book for dozing off over.

Well, maybe next week. Tonight you've got some juggling to do: three Worthy Cultural Events seem to have arrived in a big lump.

The one thing you can't put off till tomorrow is the Edmonton Art Gallery's annual Art Mart, which happens tonight between 7 and 10 p.m. in New Chancery Hall.

The theme of the goings-on will be Art Nouveau, than which one can scarcely conceive of anything more trendy. So go prepared to come back with armloads of false Beardsleys to disguise your walls with.

If you're bored with Art Nouveau, don't despair: you can still dedicate this evening (or tomorrow evening) either to Bach or the Ballet.

The Ballet in question is our own National, and it promises us two separate programs. To wit: Tonight, at 8:30 p.m. in the

Jubilee, *La Sylphide* and *Solitaire*. Tomorrow, at 3 and 8:30 p.m., *The Nutcracker* (from which derives the notorious Suite).

As for Bach, would you believe the Christmas Oratorio?

Sandra Munn will be welding into a powerful artistic whole an assembly of forces consisting of soprano Ruth New, alto June Hunt, tenor Jean Letourneau, bass Derril Butler, organist Hugh Bancroft, continuo Claude Kenneson and Manus Sasonkin, the Festival Singers and orchestra, and Uncle Tom Cobley on the vibes.

That's tonight and tomorrow night in All Saints Cathedral at 8:30 p.m.

People complain we haven't been running any arts-page quizzes lately, so here's a quickie to get you back into practice.

Fill in the blanks:

"A few tickets for the fantastic not-to-be-missed Studio Theatre production of Wilfred Watson's *O Holy* _____, *Dip Your* _____ in the Blood of _____ and _____ 'I _____ You may still be available at the Drama Department offices in Corbett Hall if you scurry."

—John Thompson



—Peter Emery photo

NOW, FOR MY NEXT TRICK—Jay Smith appears to be giving his performing dogs a line, but in reality the good noose is that he and the other actors in the picture are hung up on rehearsing *O.H.G.D.Y.F.I.T.B.O.C.A.W.I.L.Y.*, which starts Tuesday at Studio Theatre.

Jubilaires stage Finian's Rainbow

"Finian's Rainbow" has been chosen as the musical comedy to be presented by the Jubilaires on February 15, 16, and 17.

The show, set in the imaginary state of Missitucky, stars Wes Stefan as Finian McLonergan and Susan Brensmead as his daughter Sharon. Finian, an itinerant Irishman, and his winsome daughter come to Rainbow Valley to seek their fortunes, and with the aid of a pot of gold gained from a leprechaun are able to realize their dreams.

The show is directed by John Madill. Cec Pretty is doing the musical direction and Jeremy Leslie-Spinks the choreography.

For the first student drama production in the new Students' Union Theatre, the newly formed "Newman Players" will be presenting John Osborne's "Luther", December 13 through 16.

Osborne, often called one of the last "angry young writers", has not let his reputation slip in this fierce description of Martin Luther and his contemporaries.

The play scans Luther's life from the time of his ordination through to his marriage to Katherine, an ex-nun. Osborne examines Luther in relation to the Church establishment, but perhaps more importantly, Luther himself.

"Luther", winner of the critics' "Best Play of the Year" award in 1964, is being directed for the

Newman Players by Gerald Thurston, teacher of drama at Victoria Composite High School. Luther is played by well-known local actor, Denis Kalman.

The Newman Players, a fledgling group, has been organized as a relatively independent division of the Newman Center of St. Joseph's College. To ensure the technical success of the production, advice and assistance have been sought from such organizations as the Students' Union Theatre Committee, St. Joseph's seminary, Holy Redeemer College and St. Joseph's College.

Costumes have been borrowed from the recent production of "A Man for All Seasons" at Holy Redeemer College, from St. Peter's

Abbey in Meunster, Saskatchewan and from a Franciscan community near Calgary.

A swinging chorus of sixteen Augustinian monks has been recruited by Brother Donatus of St. Joseph's College, to provide the melodious Gregorian chant needed for the monastery scenes.

George Dexter, set designer and technical director, has consulted with the architect of our new theatre, and has incorporated in "Luther" the principal of "open staging" which is very much in vogue. He has provided two "islands" to split the large stage into effective work areas. By appropriate lighting, the two areas are united for the climax of the play.

Dave Organ, president of the Newman Center, says, "I hope people don't get the impression that the Newman Players are a group infatuated with 'religious' plays. 'Luther' certainly isn't, anyway, as anyone who knows Osborne could tell you. The fact that our February production is Ionesco's 'Rhinoceros' should affirm our intention to produce excellent drama for drama's sake."

He says also, "This play has fabulous direction, and magnificent co-operation from everybody; we hope to show the campus and the city exactly what students can do, given the right play and the best spirit."

—Ved Hlangor Saalcrid

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