

## Still a place for Morrison

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When one hears the name Van Morrison, they think of the brilliant lyrics and superb singing that have made him famous over the years. These qualities are also the main attributes of this veteran artist's latest album *Beautiful Vision*.

As soon as the album begins with "Celtic Ray", it is clear that Morrison is still the master of sculful, personally-searching vocals. Bagpipes add a very special touch to this cut.

There has always been a religious overtone to

Morrison's romantic melodies, and this remains today. A quick scrutiny of the song titles on *Beautiful Vision* makes this clear, as one notices "She Gives Me Religion" and "Across the Bridge Where Angels Dwell". The Biblical overtones are even more pronounced when one listens to the songs, and listening reveals the slant implied in the title of the title track "Beautiful Vision."

For all of Morrison's successes with these slower numbers, he is arguably at his best such upbeat cuts as "Dweller on the Threshold" and "Cleaning Windows." He

sings vibrantly, and his lyrics are strong. This is especially the case in the latter, a song which tells of a man locked into a certain mode of life, but with an imagination that far transcends this lot in life while not leaving him discontent within it.

In "Cleaning Windows", Morrison is aided by strong background musicians. Organist John Allair, trumpeter Mark Isham, and

saxophonist Pee Wee Ellis particularly shine.

Not all of Morrison's helpers help, however, and this occasionally takes away from the album. In particular, female backup vocalists Bianca Thornton, Pauline Lozano, and Annie Stocking are pretty sad, but in all fairness, many backup vocalists would come up short when the measuring stick was a lead vocalist of Morrison's talents.

The bottom line is that the excellence of the lyrics and vocals is still there, and that is what made Morrison a top-flight artist in the past. There is no indication that this has changed on *Beautiful Vision*, nor is there any reason why it should. Whatever the year or the overall musical tastes of the contemporary record buying public, there will always be a place for a musician of the calibre of Van Morrison.

## New show for TNB

Theatre New Brunswick presents to Fredericton Emily Bronte's haunting classic "Wuthering Heights" beginning April 17th and running until the 24th.

TNB's managing director Malcolm Black said, "it is appropriate that TNB should not only serve its student community with Bronte's masterpiece, but provide all audiences with the opportunity to see a great classic novel brilliantly dramatized for the stage."

"Wuthering Heights" continues Black, "is particularly suited to dramatization because so much of it was written in the form of dialogue. Despite the great popularity of the famous film which starred Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon, I feel that John Davidson's adaption has been much more faithful to the original work because he has managed to tell the whole story rather than finishing the play with the death of Cathy. Without seeing the agony that Heathcliff's vengeance and his undying love cause him, a major element of the story is lost. On the stage at TNB we will see the circle completed."

The line up of talent includes newcomers to TNB and favorite popular performers from past productions. TNB welcomes back this season's favorites Lynne Griffin, the tormented young heroine of *Murder Game*, and James Rankin the irrepressible Schroeder in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Ms. Griffin will play the dual roles of Cathy and Catherine her

daughter and James Rankin will play the role of Edgar Linton.

Other TNB favourites returning include Florence Paterson, warmly remembered from *The Subject Was Roses*, and *The Glass Menagerie*, who will play Ellen Dean. Dennis Thatcher, remembered from his roles in the hit *A Christmas Carol*, will play the role of Joseph. Kate Trotter is familiar to many students in N.B. for her performance as Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. Miss Trotter returns to play Isabella Linton.

We extend a hearty welcome to Scot Denton who will have the challenging assignment of portraying the diabolical Heathcliff. British actor Robert Nicholson, star of the BBC's hit comedy "Doctor in the House," plays Hindley, a role he has performed before. James Haworth completes the cast as Hareton Earnshaw.

Lighting design is by Bill Williams. *The Miracle Worker* was his last TNB credit. Phillip Silver who designed *Murder Game*, is back from Stratford to design both costumes and set. Direction will be by Malcolm Black whose last exposure to this play was a British tour in which he played Edgar Linton.

"It seems as though there is a new interest in large scale romantic works of art and we felt it appropriate that TNB end its 1981-82 season with this haunting tale," said Black. "This adaptation of *Wuthering Heights* has never been seen by North American audiences. Now once again TNB is getting a first."

## A taste of Spain



The UNB Spanish Club of the new Department of Spanish held its annual Spanish-Cooking Night at the Woodshed last Thursday. It was attended by about fifty students and faculty from different departments and off-campus guests. The entertainment was provided by Professor Dexter Noel, who sang Hispanic songs accompanied at the guitar by David Taylor; by Hylas Chung, a versatile member of the Hong-Kong Symphony Orchestra, who played Spanish guitar music; and by Marc Biagi, who sang and played the guitar.

## Casablanca is classic

In the early part of World War II, Casablanca was a stopping off place for refugees from Europe trying to reach Lisbon in a roundabout way. In "Casablanca", French, Germans, Czechs, and Bulgarians get tied up in an involved plot while awaiting passage to Lisbon. Here they will sail for the Americas, leaving war for Europe behind. This film is directed with emphasis on characterization and atmosphere.

Humphrey Bogart is the American who has always fought for the underdog, but who now refuses to stick his neck out for anyone. He likes Casablanca, and runs a night club and gambling joint there. To Rick's Café come all of Casablanca's adventure seekers, spies, and police.

Claude Rains is the

unscrupulous police perfect who is forced to aid the Nazi major, Conrad Veidt. Veidt is searching for Peter Loree, who has killed a couple of Germans and stolen their visas, but is more interested in stopping Paul Heinreich, a Czech publisher, from escaping to America. Heinreich's wife, Ingrid Bergman, who once had an affair with Bogart in Paris, comes to plead for forgiveness

and help; Bergman plays this role with much subtlety and conviction. The best of the many fine supporting players is Dooley Wilson, as the pianist and devoted friend of Bogart Wilson's fine singing and piano playing contribute much to the film's effectiveness.

"Casablanca" is shown by the UNB Film Society at 8:00 p.m. in Tilley Hall, Room 102, April 2 and 3.

## At the Art Centre

*Mostly Islands*, an exhibition of watercolours by Clive Roberts of Fredericton opens in the UNB Art Centre on Sunday afternoon, April 4th. At the same time, the Annual Exhibition of the Extension Classes opens.

Since Clive Roberts graduated from the Fine Arts

Programme at Mount Allison University, he has taught and supervised art in Fredericton. He is now full-time artist living in Fredericton.

The public is invited to attend the opening from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 4 at the UNB Art Centre in Memorial Hall.