



The Next Stage theatre company creates opportunities for women

## Jacalyn is a "love story behind bars"

By ANGELA LAWRENCE

Jill Kinsella, co-founder of The Next Stage theatre company, promises that their new production *Jacalyn*, is nothing like the film *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Yet, after reading the play's plot summary—trapped in a tiny cell in a Latin American jail, *Jacalyn* must deal with the desperation of her lover, the curiosity of her cellmate, and her own guilt, all while waiting out what might be her death sentence—one can't help but conjure feelings of *deja vu*.

Kinsella explains that *Jacalyn* is a compelling story of a naive tourist who falls in love with a man while travelling through a Latin American

country, but (due to circumstances beyond her control) finds herself trapped in jail.

Not realising the seriousness of her situation, *Jacalyn* initially treats her ordeal lightly. However, as the play develops, she slowly loses her naivety and comes to terms with the possibility of her death.

The four-character play written by American playwright Carol Wolf Holtzman, and directed by Paula Spirdakos, centres on the relationships between *Jacalyn*, her heroic lover, her Latin cellmate, and a prison guard.

*Jacalyn* is not a political but rather a very humanistic play: "A love story behind bars," Kinsella says.

The Next Stage theatre company was founded in 1984 by three actors: Jill Kinsella, York graduate Jean-

nette Lambermont and Karen Scanlan, who also plays the lead role of *Jacalyn*.

The Toronto-based theatre company was formed as the result of a bad situation. "We were three actors who weren't very happy with the lack of opportunity out there," Kinsella explains.

Instead of wallowing in self-pity, the three enthusiasts decided to create their own opportunities by establishing The Next Stage. "We thought our visions were pretty good," Kinsella said.

One of their visions was to be able to offer more opportunities for women in all areas of theatre performance and production. This includes everything from designing sets and lighting to directing and performing "meaty" female roles in company productions.

The Next Stage co-founders were also interested in producing "thought-provoking scripts from a woman's point of view," Kinsella explains. Yet she specifies that the theatre company is *not* a feminist organization. It is an Equity theatre com-

pany, therefore, Kinsella, Lambermont and Scanlan hire only Actors Equity Association members.

*Jacalyn* is the fourth play produced by The Next Stage since its inception. The three co-founders are proud of the opportunities that they have been able to provide for themselves and for others. Kinsella hopes that *Jacalyn* is another illuminating play that will help take the promising theatre company into "the next stage" of its development.

*Jacalyn* is on now at the Adelaide Theatre until March 22.

## McLaughlin hosts computer show and listens to the music of tomorrow



**LET'S MAKE MUSIC:** An attentive crowd at McLaughlin Hall savours the swingin' sounds of computer music at last week's "Soft Music" presentation. Barry Manilow, eat your heart out!

By ANDREW VANCE

McLaughlin Hall was the scene for some unconventional sounds last Friday afternoon as composers John Free and Gregory Roberts presented the computer-assisted strains of "Soft Music" to a capacity crowd.

The performance was comprised of three compositions. Free's "This is Not Iggy Pop" used Pop's album *Zombie Birdhouse* as a springboard for some clever experimentation with timbre, utilizing the sophisticated circuitry of a Yamaha TX-816 to digitally rearrange the pieces into something which scarcely resembled

anything Pop ever did.

Roberts' "Crosstalk" sounded similarly cosmic. The performance concluded with the presentation of Free's "The Shape of Things to Come," a duet for computer and guitar.

Discussing his musical objectives Free, who holds degrees in both music and computer science, acknowledged the frequently disconcerting quality of his particular musical form. "It can be abrasive," he ventured, "but it's not escapist. Music reflects the world with its turmoil and alienation, and this [computer music] confronts that

alienation."

As to the role of computers in music Free was adamant. "They're not a substitute for creativity or other instruments," he explained, "they're tools to alleviate the labour process involved in music. If you want a saxophone you should use a saxophone."

While only tools, computers are nonetheless extremely powerful ones and there seems no end to their potential uses in expanding the boundaries of musical experience. For those present at last Friday's concert, it truly was a glimpse of the shape of things to come.

# Y O R K A R T S CALENDAR

Compiled By Jennifer Parsons

## DANCE

**Lunch Time Dance Series.** performances by students in the Dance department. Studio 1, Fine Arts building, March 12 at 12:00 p.m.

## GALLERIES

**Portraits and Photographs,** works by Jane Altry. Winters Gallery (123 WC), Feb. 23 to March 13.

**Janet Cardiff,** recent prints by the artist. Glendon Gallery, Feb. 19 to March 29.

**Area Show Series,** this week displays works from students in Foundation Studies. IDA GALLERY (102 FA), March 9 to 13.

**Pop/Op Multiplied,** Pop and optic art selections from the gallery's permanent collection. AGYU (N145 Ross), Feb. 26 to March 27.

**Jean Cong,** finely crafted acrylics on canvas—images of birth and nascent life. Zack Gallery (109 Stong C.), March 4 to 17.

**Tending the Fire,** sculptures by Gail Esau. Winters Gallery, March 16 to 29.

**FYP,** Founders first year photography students are presenting a show of their work, March 18 to 22.

**Poisies Art Competition** is being presented at Founders Gallery from March 25 to April 8. Winners will be announced at a reception on April 1.

## MUSIC

**Student Recital,** Anne Werbitsky, flute. McLaughlin Hall, March 5 at 7:00 p.m.

**Student Chamber Series Concert,** a varied programme given by student ensembles. McLaughlin Hall, March 6 at noon.

**Student Recitals,** Debbie Bilokrely, Soprano; Jeannie Niokos, piano. McLaughlin Hall, March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

**Student Recital,** Gloria Yip, piano. McLaughlin Hall, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

## THEATRE

**New Play Festival,** exciting new works by members of the York community will be presented. Atkinson Theatre, March 10 to 13 at 7:00 p.m. Free admission.

## GUEST LECTURES

**What do I do With a Degree in Fine Arts?** a one hour talk with Hennie Wolff, executive director of Visual Arts Ontario. 312 Fine Arts Bldg, March 6 at 12:00 p.m.

**Carl Orff: Music for Children,** lecture/demonstration by Lois Birkenshaw. McLaughlin Hall, March 11 at 12:30.

*If you are planning an arts event, drop by Excalibur at 111 Central Square or call 736-5239 and ask for Kevin, Angela or Jenny.*

## Prof. Mordechai Nisan

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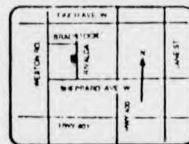
Thursday, March 5th., 1987  
Grand Opening with KICK AXE  
(record artist C.B.S.)

Friday, March 6th., 1987 BRIGHTON ROCK (record artist, presented by Q107)

Saturday, March 7th., 1987 PAUL JAMES (record artist)

Sunday, March 8th., 1987.

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advance tickets  
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