

fokus makes strong debut

by Belinda Bruce

From the stress on function and demand for perfection evident in German automobiles to the innovation of the Bauhaus movement, German society has, and continues to have, a significant and unique influence on Western society.

FOKUS: The Contemporary Art of Germany, presented by Harbourfront in cooperation with The Goethe Institute, is a bewitching celebration of recent German thought and creativity. The events of the two-month festival offer a chance to experience the most current German works in the areas of theatre, dance, visual arts, design, literature, film and music.

The festival began on September 22 with the opening of the visual arts component at The Power Plant, called *In Between and Beyond*.

Ten artists from West Germany,

born in the 1950s, have come together in a diverse exhibition of works including photography, sculpture and multi-media. The show is integrated by the uncommon theme of the significance of history in general, and art history in particular, to both the literal and visual language of the present.

Bogomir Ecker's "Figure (Two Chambers)" is a large bell made of iron sheets which, at first glance, appears to be sitting on two posts but is actually suspended a few centimetres above them. The slight swaying of the bell gives one a sense of weight, and at the same time, fragility both in a literal and figurative context. The religious, political and gender-related associations it inspires serve to identify it.

The most striking piece in the gallery is "The Annunciation" by Stephan Huber. Placed high on

the wall are two skeletons in classical poses, head to head, atop a carved wooden box. A large, round metal object, which can be read as a coin or a mirror, rests between the figures. These references to social unrest, an ornate baroque tradition (influenced by Catholicism) and the perils of money and vanity bring home concerns that reach back to Roman times.

The show also contains beautiful and intriguing photography.

The power of this collection lies in the richness and purity of materials (glass, wood, iron, rope, velvet, etc.), the discipline of technique (clean sculpture, controlled photography, unity of colour, design and space) and the strength of size and simplicity inherent in each piece.

The exhibition is free and runs until November 12.

artscalendar

by Kristy Gordon

It's time to pick and choose the arts events that interest you this week. There is so much happening on campus, you'll want to attend as much as possible.

Samuel J. Zacks Gallery (Stong College) presents **Hilda Oomen's** recent paintings, which combine images of industrial and rural landscapes to show the connection between the natural landscape and humanity's attempt to control it. The exhibit is open Mon. to Fri. from 12-5 pm until Oct. 23.

York theatre students are in for a real treat. **Masaharu Kato**, senior actor and master teacher with the renowned Suzuki Company of Toga in Toga-Mura, Japan, will spend three weeks in the theatre department as part of the 1989

Canada Council Visiting Foreign Artists programme. Kato, here until Oct. 23, will be instructing both graduate and undergraduate students in the Suzuki method of actor training. This method involves rich, powerful voice training and rigorous physical training, drawing upon Japanese theatrical traditions (**Noh, Kabuki and the martial arts**). If you are interested in observing any of these classes, phone the theatre dept. at 736-5171. On Oct. 21 from 2-5pm, theatre students will perform examples of what they've learned in the **Atkinson Theatre Studio**.

"**La Maison de la Culture**" presents **Patricia Remia's** recent works in acrylic. Largely inspired by the St. Sebastian tradition, the paintings are concerned with perceptions of the "Sacred Body" in founding myths. The exhibition runs at Glendon Hall until Oct. 26, Mon. to Wed. from 10-4pm.

For the first time since 1976, the **Samuel Sarick Purchase Collection** will be displaying all the award-winning works of art by graduate students from York's visual MFA programme. Many of these student/artists have gone on to distinguish themselves as professional artists and educators. This collection is on display in the **IDA Gallery** in the fine arts building and is open weekdays from 10-4pm.

Three Tree Columns is an outdoor sculpture by Toronto artist **Spring Hurlbut** which will open to the public on Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm. This project is the first in a series of site-specific installations sponsored by the Art Gallery of York University. Three Tree Columns will be on display for two years at the southwest corner of the square between Stedman Lecture Halls and the Vanier residence (near the trees).

York's theatre dept. and the York Theatre Journal are co-sponsoring **The New Soviet Theatre: Problems and Possibilities** on Oct. 21 at the **Tarragon Theatre**. The topics are: The New Soviet Theatre: Changes Since Glasnost (chaired by York's Don Rubin) and Beyond Moscow: The Soviet Theatre Looks Out. All panellists are active members of Soviet theatre. The cost of both sessions, including a luncheon, is \$12.50. Phone the theatre dept. for more information.

For those of you who wonder which career path you should follow, Oct. 25 at 7pm in the **Nat Taylor Cinema** (Ross N102) is a time and place you should remember. Film alumnus **Bruce Glawson** will draw on his extensive experience in all aspects of film-making and discuss "Life after York" in an industry career. Glawson is a leading producer of music and variety specials, drama and family television programming in Canada. He is the headlining speaker in the Guest Speaker Series sponsored by York Filmforum and the York University Film and Video Students Association. Along with **Arnie Zipursky** (another York alumnus) he has formed Cambium Film and Video Productions, whose credits include Sharon, Lois & Bram's *Elephant Show*, Jane Siberry's *One More Colour* and Luba's *Between the Earth and Sky*.

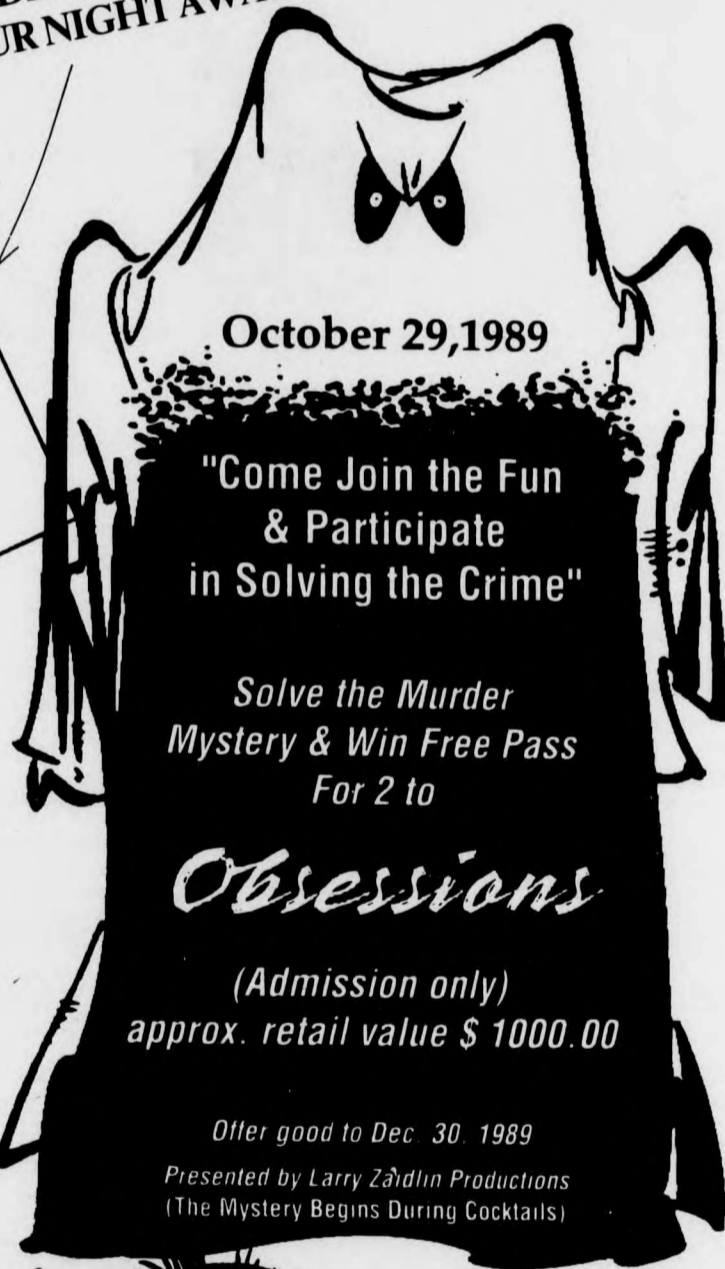
If you want 16,000 pairs of eyes reading about your event, please bring your listing to the EXCAL office and drop it into the big manilla envelope on the arts board.

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