

Ballet Ys wins Playhouse audience

by V. WHYTE
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Marnie Cook and Robert McCollum performed 'Elegy' as part of the Ballet Ys performance Sept. 26 at the Playhouse

Ballet Ys (pronounced 'ease') performed before a diversified audience on Wednesday evening, September 26 at the Fredericton Playhouse. Ballet Ys (a celtic word meaning "of the times") is a contemporary dance group and therefore cannot be compared to traditional ballet troupes. For those individuals not familiar with this art form, this Canadian ensemble afforded an excellent introduction into the world of 'modern ballet' but not ballet per se. Ballet lovers found it somewhat more difficult on Wednesday to appreciate the innovative style of dance; what these people need to remember is that Ballet Ys does not pose as a traditional group but rather it reflects a change of style.

The highlight of the performance was the Canadian premiere of "Incident at Blackbriar". This movement based on William Sleator's novel *Blackbriar* was the most dramatic one employing theatrical effects such as lighting, sound and periodic costumes. The interpretation was powerfully executed by Carina Bomers, Luanne Syjut and Mr. McCollum. The element of emotional conflict among the three was very effectively portrayed. "Incident at Blackbriar" also served as a fitting introduction to the previously mentioned "Elegy" which was the most technically oriented movement of the program.

"Les Coeurs Verts", a quebecois style of dancing was the final movement and as such lightened the mood creating a link between the first number and the last. If this performance was not as good as the other numbers, it was because James Bailey was obviously not feeling well on Wednesday. He proved his skill as a ballet dancer in the *Movemento* and it was unfortunate that the audience had to see him at a bad time for him.

Ballet Ys is no newcomer to Fredericton and judging from the audience's reaction (a standing ovation) their return is looked forward to. The troupe has become renowned nationwide and it will probably be only a short while before Ballet Ys moves into the international scene.

THE FREDERICTON FOLK COLLECTIVE

by ANDREW BARTLETT

Our next Folk Collective Coffeehouse is scheduled for Friday, October 19th, 8:30 at Memorial Hall. We will have a featured performer by the name of Rodney Brown, a professional singer/songwriter who has released a record. There will be more information on him in next week's column.

Anybody around campus or in Fredericton who plays and/sings folk music - traditional, modern, bluegrass, whatever - is invited to the Song Circle on Thursday beginning around in the Woodshed, top floor of the SUB. It's a good opportunity to hear songs from other people and perform your own in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

We invite you also to become a member of the Collective, if you have gone to coffeehouses in the past or are newly interested. Your five dollar fee entitles you to the following: our regular Newsletter informing you of Coffeehouses and other news relating to the Collective; discounts on door prices at any concerts; and an official membership as a supporter of a unique folk music scene. For further information, phone Andrew Bartlett at 455-6120.

Theatre People at Art Centre

Theatre People is an exhibition of 52 portraits of stage stars. They are shown in their character roles in London and New York in the 30's, 40's and 50's. Grant Macdonald of Kingston, Ontario drew the portraits originally for publication. Here are some of the great names of English Theatre, including Dame Edith Evans, Sir Laurence Olivier, Sir Noel Coward, Dame Margaret Rutherford, Jack Hawkins, Lillian Gish, Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn and Katharine Hepburn.

In the early 1930's Grant Macdonald went to London to continue his art studies, supporting himself with freelance work. He had studied at the Ontario College of Art and at the Art Students' League in New York, and his work experience included engraving, retouching and illustration for Toronto newspapers and magazines.

In England the Daily Telegraph had a column devoted to the arts, mostly the theatre, and Grant Macdonald was sent to draw portraits to accompany reviews. Working through their press representatives, he arranged sittings with the greatest stars of the London Stage. His method was to see the performance first to get the feeling of the character and then to draw from life. He remembers his subjects with the greatest respect and affection, and he formed long-standing friendships with some of these actors and actresses.

The Sketch and The Bystander also used his drawing, and later he worked directly for H.M. Tennant Productions doing drawings for posters and programmes as well as portraits for the media. When Tennant opened productions in New York he went over too, and his work appeared in the NY Herald Tribune and Theatre Arts Monthly.

As a member of the Directorate of Special Services of the RCNVR during the war, he illustrated the Canadian Navy Show, "Meet the Navy".

In 1947 he moved back to Kingston, but continued to go to New York for sketch commissions, and also recorded the productions being staged in the new Stratford (Ontario) Theatre. Two books of his Stratford portraits have been published.

The coloured drawings, pen and ink with oil stain, were executed originally in colour, but were usually reproduced in black and white. The monochromes are pencil drawings.

The early portraits were lost, but Grant Macdonald has carefully preserved a great many of the later drawings. This exhibition shows only a fraction of his collection. Grant Macdonald is a prolific painter; many exhibitions of his romantic realist paintings have been shown recently in Ontario.

The UNB Art Centre organized this exhibition with the financial assistance of the National Museums Programme. After its opening in Fredericton, it will tour for a year throughout the Maritimes and Quebec.

The exhibition opens Thanksgiving Sunday, between 2 and 4 pm and continues until October 31. The Art Centre in Memorial Hall will keep regular hours of 10 to 5 pm on Thanksgiving Monday.

You are Invited to the Opening of Two Exhibitions

PAINTINGS

by Toby Graser

THEATRE PEOPLE

by Grant Macdonald

Assisted by National Museums

Thanksgiving Sunday,
October 7, 2-4 p.m.

The Exhibitions Continue until October 31.