

## Asylum inviting yet weak

Invitation from the Asylum  
By Roger O. Hirson  
March 16 - April 3

by Charmaine Roux

Director Kurt Reis said it himself as quoted from Wednesday's *Edmonton Journal* "If it is a good play, it doesn't need help." In this production the acting is superb on all counts, as well as the direction. Unfortunately, the play itself will never become a classic.

The plot, simply stated, involves Diane Martin (Deborah Kipp) a patient of a psychiatric asylum for seven years. Now, for the first time in this period of incarceration her husband arrives for a visit. Why? At whose request? And what is the significance of this visit?

The play attempts to explore the fine line between madness and sanity. Even if we try to take the play solely as a witty account of the potential destructive force

of relationships, it fails. Mr. Hirson has created some very witty moments in this play. He is helped by the brilliant direction of Kurt Reis. Some of you may recall Reis' previous direction of the Citadel's production of *Equus* in 1976.

*Invitation from the Asylum* might have been plausible if left simply as a comedic, even bitter treatment of the mixed perceptions of the mind. However, Hirson seems to want to make some profound statement on the present day lack of human communication yet the choric effect of the bartenders (played by Orest Kinasevich) saying: "listening is a lost art - people don't listen nowadays" comes out merely as a trite and rather obvious statement.

Don't let my rather cynical analysis of this play's content dissuade you from attending. The acting is of superior quality. It ranks with the best Citadel productions this season.



Deborah Kipp and Allan Royal in a scene from *Invitation from the Asylum*, playing at the Citadel Rice Theatre.

photo Ray Giguere

## Bruckner symphony's best

by Dave Cox

Mario Bernardi led the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra through a heartily satisfying concert program last Saturday evening at the Jubilee Auditorium.

Bernardi has conducted the London Symphony Orchestra and been Music Director of the national Arts Centre orchestra. He has also been appointed Music Director of the Calgary Philharmonic commencing in 1984. His talent does not belie his credentials.

He conducted the orchestra dramatically and vivaciously through works by Beecroft, Prokofiev and Bruckner.

The first work on the program was a modern piece by Canadian composer Norma Beecroft. Beecroft's *Improvvisazione Concertanti No. 2* is "a kind of modern-day concerto grosso," with solos and ensembles playing upon one another in combinations. It was first conducted by Mario Bernardi in 1971 at its premiere.

The composition is "pointillistic" at times, and the whole piece has the aura of being excellent mood music for a suspense-thriller movie.

The second work the orchestra performed was Serge Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 1 in D Major (Classical), Opus 25*. Although an unusual work for Prokofiev, it was still within his talents to create a very nice classical piece, which was well performed on this occasion, especially the finale.

The highlight of the program was the third and closing work, *Symphony No. 4 in E flat major ("The Romantic")* by Anton Bruckner.

The piece opens with "a horn call that is the motto theme" of the work. This theme is built upon in the third movement, "the Hunt," and climaxes in the finale.

This gave the opportunity for some fine performances by the brass and woodwinds. Sterling musicianship by the trombones and horns was supplemented by fine bassoon playing. The percussionist was very good as well.

All in all, the night was a triumph for the orchestra, and I wish them many more.

I wish Arts reviewers had more freedom in what they could review.

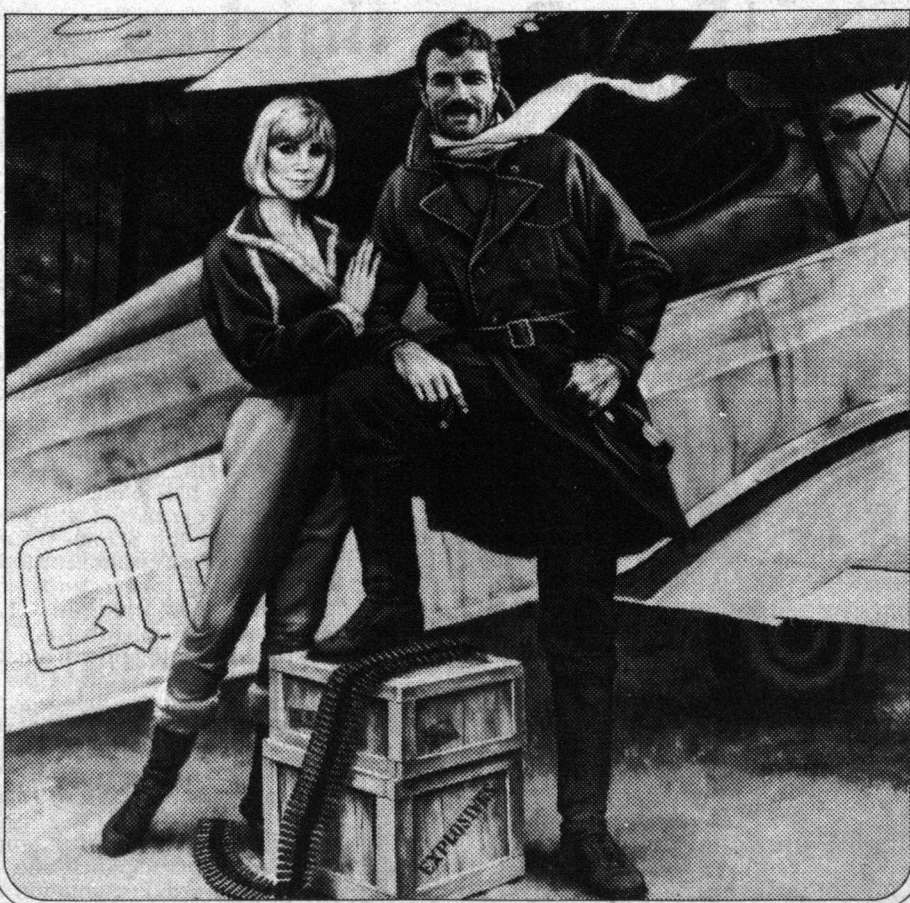
For example, it would be nice to be able to analyze the artistic merits of those things we do every day.

Like drinking beer—why can't one say in an Arts-story-form "Gee, I like the aesthetic aspects of Molson Malt Liqueur. That golden-brown color, the delightful bubbles, the tang of the taste as it goes down."

Beer is more of an aesthetic pleasure than a lot of so-called 'cultural' events that are either pretentious or boring or both.

### TOM SELLECK BESS ARMSTRONG in HIGH ROAD TO CHINA

Fun and adventure at every turn.



GOLDEN HARVEST / JADRAN FILM Present A FRED WEINTRAUB Production for CITY FILMS A BRIAN G. HUTTON Film  
TOM SELLECK BESS ARMSTRONG "HIGH ROAD TO CHINA"  
Also Starring JACK WESTON WILFORD BRIMLEY ROBERT MORLEY BRIAN BLESSED CASSANDRA GAVA  
Music by JOHN BARRY Executive Producer RAYMOND CHOW Based on the book by JON CLEARY  
Screenplay by SANDRA WEINTRAUB ROLAND and S. LEE POGOSTIN Produced by FRED WEINTRAUB Directed by BRIAN G. HUTTON  
Read the Warner Paperback Technicolor® Technivision® FROM WARNER BROS. A WARNER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY © 1982 Warner Bros. All Rights Reserved

NOW PLAYING AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU.  
Check your local listings for details.

## Nexus Theatre serves tasty Frugal Repast

Lunchtime theatre at the Centennial Library can be quite a tasty experience. Even in spite of the fact that the play currently showing is called *Frugal Repast*, you can still bring your lunch or buy one there.

By Canadian playwright Sheldon Rosen (who has been playwright in residence at the National Arts Centre and Stratford), the play is based on a Picasso etching of two impoverished Harlequin figures.

The two figures have a frugal repast on their anniversary, and chat about times gone by.

The play is directed by Ben Henderson, an MFA grad from the U of A. Robert Shannon is the designer. Blair Haynes and Joanne Wilson star in the show.

Performances are at noon, tickets \$3.00.

Nexus Theatre will be offering Edmonton audiences a brand new, exciting event — Late Night Theatre: In cooperation with Sid's Restaurant on Jasper Avenue at 116th Street, Nexus will hold-over *Frugal Repast* on Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26, at 11:00 p.m.

Blair Haynes was last seen on stage in *Henry IV Part I* and *The Three Musketeers* at the Citadel Theatre and in Workshop West's 1985. Joanne Wilson is an Edmonton broadcaster and was last seen on stage in *Henry IV Part I* at the Citadel Theatre.

Sheldon Rosen is best known for his play, *Ned and Jack*, first produced at the New Play Centre in Vancouver. He has written numerous stage plays, as well as radio and television scripts.

Come to Sid's on Friday and Saturday night and be a part of this unique Edmonton event!

## Treat your taste buddies to lunch.

When it's your turn to treat your buddies to a tasty lunch, bring 'em to Boston Pizza for a Nooner.

The Boston Nooner is just right for the lunch-hour appetite. It's the famous taste of Boston in an 8" pizza at a price that's a treat in itself.

Fantastic Food. Fast and friendly service. Economical prices. It's the only way to treat a buddy these days.

 **Boston Pizza**  
There's no taste like it!

10854 - 82 Avenue  
or any of the other  
13 Edmonton and area locations

