

Fir Tree good for children of all ages

The Fir Tree
Stage Polaris
through December 18

review by Ron Kuipers

"Just hold on one cheeze-chompin' minute!" snarls a fat rat in Stage Polaris' current Christmas production, a musical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's *The Fir Tree*. The play combines music, comedy, and morality, giving youngsters of all ages many "cheeze-chompin'" moments to savour. Do you find yourself stuck, not knowing what to give that unsatisfied, technologically-sophisticated child of the eighties? Here are some suggestions.

English Majors: How about some dramatic irony? Seriously, I can think of nothing a child enjoys more than watching some clumsy buffoon trying to find where another character is hiding. Especially when the children already know the location of the hideout! "He's behind the fir tree!" they scream with excitement. And the more the buffoon plays off his ignorance the more ecstatic the children (and some young-at-heart entertainment critics) become. *The Fir Tree* is chalk full of such moments, as the children attest with satisfied smiles.

Music Majors: Why not give that young, loved-one's lungs a good workout? This

production is woven together with a pleasing selection of songs, which are simple enough for the children to pick up on. And even if they can't get all the words, they can at least yell "Egg!" when they are instructed to during one of the songs. Carol Weiss, who wrote the songs and the lyrics, deserves credit for effectively capturing children's imaginations.

Philosophy Majors: Why not give that special child a lesson in ethics? After all, what children's play would be complete without the "lesson" at the end? In any case, it gives the adult an excuse to go. When confronted you can always say, "The play had a good message. I'd lost touch with the true spirit of Christmas." The play examines the lives of an unhappy fir tree and an equally unhappy young boy. As they cross each other's paths, they both discover true happiness in giving rather than taking. Surely this is a moral lesson of which even Immanuel Kant would be jealous.

Engineers: Show your young friends just how many ways the mechanical skills you are learning can be applied. Stage Polaris claims that this is their most "lavish... presentation to date," including a number of different settings. Props include a fir tree that gets bigger as the play goes on. Just think, you will be able to explain to a curious youngster how it's all done!

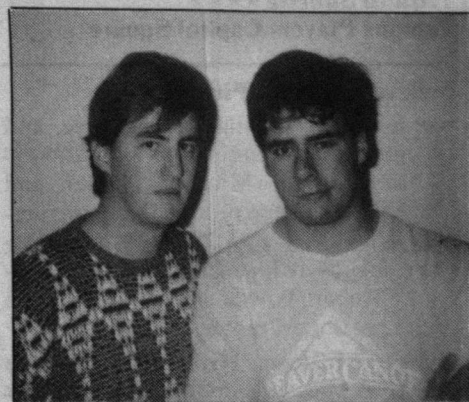
Everyone else: As you can see, *The Fir Tree* has something for any well-rounded university student (and their young friends, of course). Dramatic irony, music, ethics, props, puppets, people, jokes and much more. Oh yeah, if belching offends you, plug your ears when the rat sings his song. One more thing: as you are rushing out to catch this, don't forget the kids at home! After all, you wouldn't want anyone to think you were a child, would you?

Music trivia: The diminutive Grant and Lloyd

by G. Winton and L. Robertson

Here is a brief, shortened version of our world famous music trivia contest (well, Alberta-famous, at least). No fancy intro, no brain-taxing questions, just last week's answers.

1. Jackson Browne recorded "Lawyers In Love."
2. Russia is vacationland for Lawyers in Love.
3. a) Eric Clapton shot the sheriff. b) He did not kill the deputy. c) It was in self defence.
4. Rod the Mod sang "Love Touch" in *Legal Eagles*.
5. The Bobby Fuller Four fought the law and the law won.
6. The Dead Milkmen fought the law and they won!
7. The Police.
8. George sang "Sue Me, Sue You Blues."
9. Ronnie Laws made a name for himself after Earth, Wind and Fire.
10. Cheap Trick were bothered by the "Dream Police."



Grant Winton (left) and Lloyd Robertson: *The Gateway's* loveable but elusive trivia wags will return in January.

TB. Bing Crosby and David Bowie teamed up to record "Peace on Earth," along with "The Little Drummer Boy."

Our winner, for the second time (let this be a lesson to you people who never enter) is Tom Mar. He will be rewarded with a gift certificate from SU Records for having the knowledge, and the guts, to enter.

Merry Christmas to all our readers.

The Gateway Literary Page

Invites submissions of short stories (1500 words or less)
poems to room 282, SUB
Attention: Mike Spindloe

R.A.T.T.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
4 DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM	5 NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	6 TUESDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT 7:30 BRAZIL 10:00 PLANES, TRAINS, and AUTOMOBILES	7 M I M D R A W R A E G D E A N K R E I S T S	8 LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK	9 GREAT BAR STAFF	10 E C L E C T I C
11 THE RATT STAFF AND YOUR STUDENTS' UNION	12 PRESENTS AMERICAN BEER NIGHT	13 7:30 RUNNING MAN 10:00 TERMINATOR	14 PEACH RASPBERRY STRAWBERRY BLUEBERRY BLACKBERRY	15 'N '60's & '70's CLASSIC ROCK N' ROLL	16 5 DAILY BEER & DRINK SPECIALS	17 M U S I C
18 WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	19 6 BRANDS AVAILABLE	20 	21 ON SPECIAL ALL DAY BY THE GLASS OR BY THE PITCHER	22 CLASSIC R & B	23 GREAT TIME	24 N I T E
25 ENJOY YOUR SCHOOLING!	26 R.A.T.T. CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 18 <i>Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year</i> See you in '89 — Best Wishes from the RATT Bar			29 GOOD PEOPLE	30 GREAT TUNES	31 CO-SPONSOR CJSR FM 88.5 LIVE MUSIC WHEN AVAILABLE

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