

Fourth year BFAs in fine form

Fencin' an' Feudin'

**Dreaming and Duelling
Studio Theatre**

review by Lisa Trofymow

On the program is printed in bold type a "Warning: Language may be offensive to some." So if you see John and Joe Lazurus' *Dreaming and Duelling* at the Studio Theatre (Corbett Hall) before March 29th, don't gasp and don't chicken out. While the dialogue may or may not be the "poetry of toads"—according to one source—the production is superb.

Since the set is static, the play depends on its actors. Raul Tome (Joel), Greg Coltman (Eric) and Tani Sablatash (Louise), all fourth year BFAs, give fine performances.

The duelling sequences—whether with foils, coathangers or beautifully mimed sabres—are excellent: there is real excitement, real danger. It is not hard to believe that Joel and Eric are top fencers on their high school team—and I've taken basic fencing. It's easy to just slash at one's opponent, but good fencing involves a technique and an attitude which takes years to develop.

Joel and Eric are two characters who fence so seriously that they develop secret French swordsman alter-egos. They even duel a scumbag jock named Skelly over Louise's love and honor—values which seem outdated in a modern high school milieu.

Giant tarot cards hanging above and

behind the set are lit successively and foreshadow the main characters' fates.

The wild, eccentric Joel lives out his phallic fantasies through fencing. Raul Tome moves about the stage with a cat's ease, and he fences with such style and intensity that his obsession with the sport is quite clear to the audience.

Tania Sablatash plays Louise as both tough and vulnerable. Louise weathers taunts about her birthmark without self-pity yet is bewildered when Joel tells her she "transcends beauty." The birthmark becomes the symbolic focus of the love of Joel and Eric.

Mike Evans, in one of two supporting roles, plays Skelly. Though not an acting student, Evans proves dramatic ability particularly during the duel between himself and Joel. And although he's quite slender, Evans conveys Skelly as a brawny bastard.

Perhaps the weakest character is Mrs. Thorpe, the fencing teacher (Marie Gynane-Willis). She is portrayed as being so high-strung and hard-edged that it is difficult to sympathize with her. And unfortunately, her lines are too often bitten short or inaudible.

Dreaming and Duelling should appeal to almost anyone (as director Carl Hare probably knows). There is plenty of action and good characterization. The plot is simple, the subtext is complex. It is a shame that a few individuals in the opening night audience were offended by a few fucking profanities.



Laughing Stock is a potpourri of giggles and laughs. Individually and as a group, they have performed in many major centres in Canada and the USA, including two-and-a-half weeks OFF-Broadway in New York in April 1984.

Laughing Stock combines the talents of some of Western Canada's leading young comedians. This six-member group have had their improvisational techniques well-honed by years of TheatreSports participation.

FREE LUNCH HOUR COMEDY

Tuesday, March 19 — 12:30 pm at SUB Theatre

Green Thumb

THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW CANADIAN KID

A play about racism and youth

Recently toured Britain and Europe.

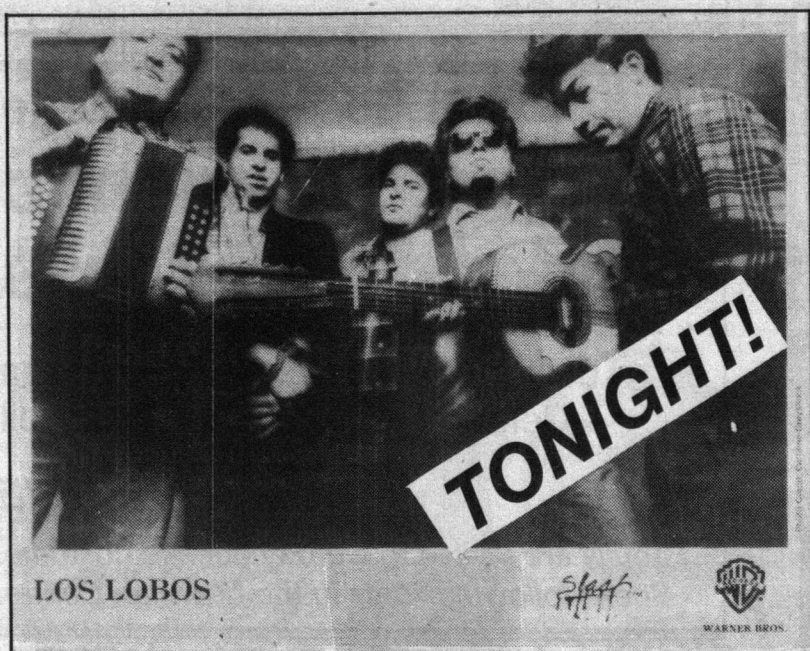
FREE LUNCH HOUR THEATRE!!

Wednesday, March 20
12:00 noon
SUB Theatre

NEW CANADIAN KID, written by Green Thumb Artistic Director, Dennis Foon, is the story of a young immigrant, Nick, and the struggles he faces adjusting to a new country, language and lifestyle.

The U of A Student's Union & K-97 present from East Los Angeles

Los Lobos



LOS LOBOS

With special guests: "JR. GONE WILD" and "THE DUSTY CHAPS"

Best New Artist: Rolling Stone Critics' Poll
Band Of The Year: Rolling Stone Critics' Poll
Top 3 Albums of 1984: New York Times and Los Angeles Times
1983 Grammy Award Winners

SUB THEATRE

Thursday, March 14 • 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: All BASS outlets • Charge by Phone 424-3355
\$1.50 off for U of A Students

Lobos Info Line: 432-4764

Sound by ALLSTAR



presented in association with



Canada's Top-Ranked UNIVERSITY VS. COLLEGE

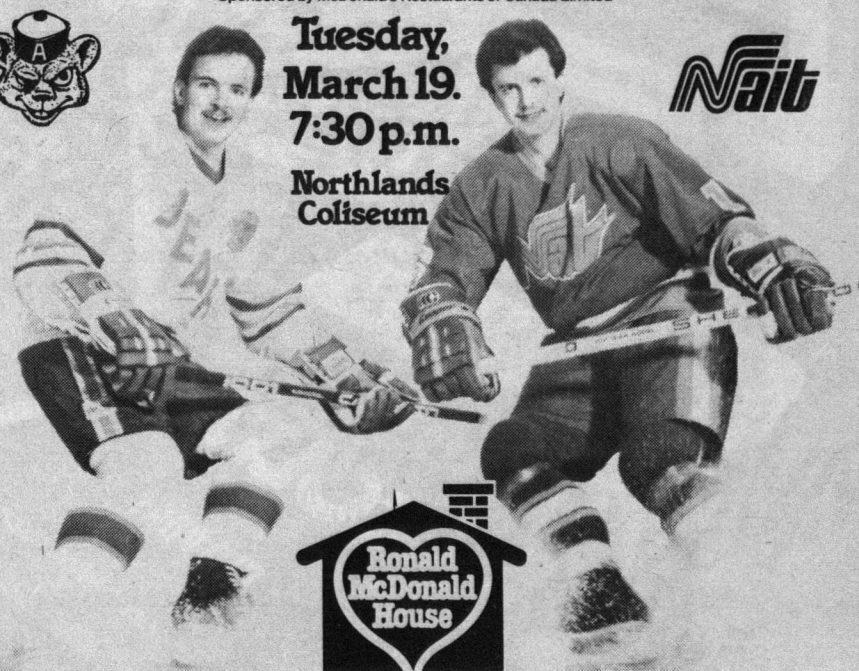
FACE OFF '85

For the Ronald McDonald House Cup
Sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited



Tuesday,
March 19,
7:30 p.m.

Northlands
Coliseum



Reserved Seating \$5.00

50¢ from every Ticket Sold goes to Ronald McDonald House

Tickets Available at:
All Bass Ticket Outlets

U of A Dept. of Athletic Services
NAIT Student Services Room E134