

by stephen r. mills

Anyone on campus who saw EASY RIDER (and who didn't) will have no difficulty remembering Dennis Hopper, whose portrayal of the perpetually stoned Billy the Kid was one of the high points of this most influential film.

According to a news release received by the Gazette, recently, Hopper has a new film which promises to be every bit as entertaining as RIDER, chiefly due to the personality of Hopper himself.

Such titles as "a maker of cinema's new wave" have been applied to Hopper and while he deserves some praise, I would rather call him imitator than maker. You see, in this latest effort (originally titled THE LAST MOVIE, and now called THE AMERICAN DREAMER) Hopper plays himself and the flick is more or less a cinematic portrayal of "real" life. The idea is not new (Alan King's, A

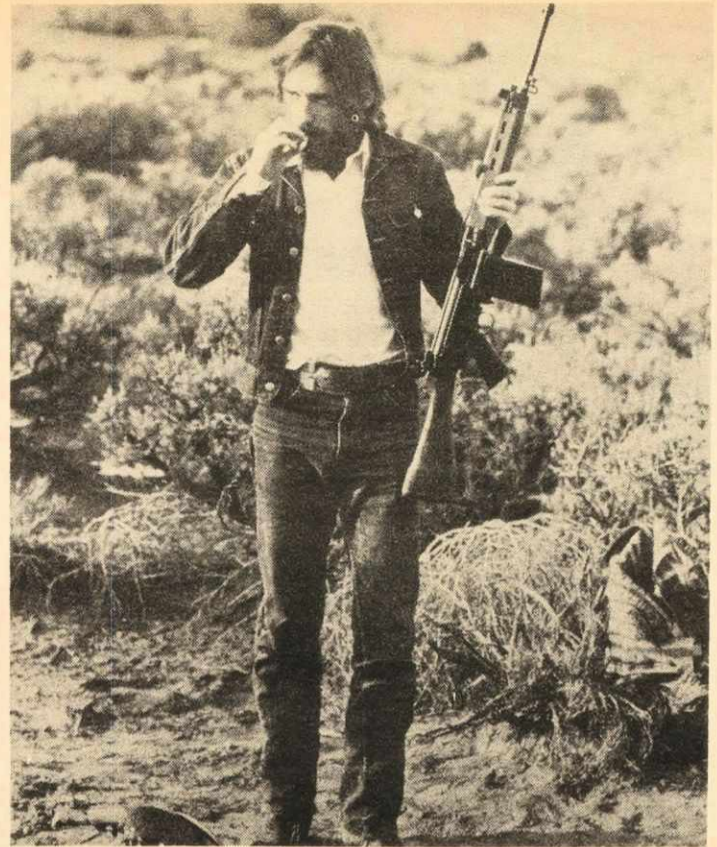
MARRIED COUPLE will, of course, come to mind) and the success of the venture will depend on the appeal of Hopper's way of life. (The news release says about the film "It will treat all aspects of Hopper's existence from his art to his sex life."). This could mean either that the film may be refreshing, or may come off as just another "message" film, like the million and one such efforts spawned by RIDER's phenomenal success . . . One way or the other, university students will know first because not only is the film "different", but so is the distribution method. Apparently the movie will not be distributed first to commercial cinemas but to university campuses.

The article says: The distributing Corda Production will entertain bids from campus groups which may wish to sponsor the film's exhibition on individual campuses. (In-

terested groups can contact the company at 1041 N. Highland, Hollywood, California).

It is easy to think that they're doing this because a commercial distribution would prove unprofitable. However, from what is known of Hopper, and he has received a great deal of pro publicity within the last year or so, he is premiering the flick on campus because he has something relevant to say to university students.

Hopefully some campus organization will book the film as I am sure many Dal. students would enjoy seeing it.



The Reel Dennis Hopper

Shakespeare exposed

Dream "licentious"

by Betty Frump

I was truly disheartened by Neptune Theatre's distasteful production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Surely, the late Mr. Shakespeare would not have meant his play to be interpreted in such a rowdy manner.

The entire production simply oozed (pardoney-my language) sex, sex, SEX!!! Can you imagine fully grown men running around in tight, revealing leotards? And fairies, whom I thought to be our sweet children of the forest, proved to be quite lusty and sensual creatures in their brief, skin hugging costumes.

Whoever dreamed up the sets for the woodland scenes should certainly be raided by the Morality Squad for partaking of psychedelic drugs or something

like that.

I was really shocked at the opening of the play by the disgusting debaucheries that were taking place by the drunken young lovers fondling each other in full view of the public.

The situation did not improve with the progress of the play. During the elopement scene Lysander tries to seduce his love Hermia. Fortunately Hermia is of an upstanding nature and put the young man in his place. But the young Lysander would not repent for his sins and later in the play proves his licentiousness by attempting to mollest poor Helena, Hermia's best friend!

I am certain that Mr. Shakespeare intended his drama to be a light comedy of innocent love, not as a means to

give license to immoral and wanton behaviour.

The play does have one redeeming quality in the hilarious portrayal of the artist's production of the Pyramus and Thisby. While the audience was rolling in the aisle, I must admit that I did succumb to a few fits of giggles. Bottom, as Pyramus, was perfect in his farcical role of the tragic hero with stogy gesters and clownish blunders. These were complemented by Flute's inane tripping about the stage as the ill-fated heroine, floppy bosom and all.

On the whole, the production of "Dream" reflects the lower standards of today's young people. If you think that you are going to see an example of proper social conduct, perhaps you had better stay home and read your Bible.

Mime troupe impressive

by Leslie MacDonald

Seeing things that aren't there?

That's the idea of mime, and the skillful work of the Canadian Mime Theatre brought all sorts of things to view.

A rearrangement of arms, legs and facial expression turned Harro, one member of the troupe, from elephant to rabbit to gorilla.

George baked a cake, Adrian lost his balloon, and we traveled through a whole TV western serial, entitled Western Narrative, without a sound being spoken, and nothing to set the scene except an occasional change of hat, or a wooden block which changed from chair, to bench to bathtub.

Skits like "The Chef", "One of those Days", and "Doctor's Waiting Room," gave the audience a chance to look and laugh at themselves without the embarrassment that this act usually creates when the lights are on.

And Adrian's child/clown enactment of "Le Ballon Rouge" and "Please Don't Pick the Flowers" was like looking through a window at a child at play, with the pleasure which that activity brings.

The freedom of expression and of movement which the troupe exhibited invited a similar freedom of reaction from the audience, and on the whole, they got it.

Although it took a bit of time to get used to the language of mime, the audience related quickly and with much appreciation to the sketches.

The troupe, composed of three men and one woman, performed a variety of skits, which looked at life the comic, the tragi-comic, and the serious.

Some of the most enthusiastic members of the audience were the children, including the 10-year-old sitting behind us who kept up a running commentary on the show. Not only did he help his parents understand what was going on, but anxiously inquired "Didn't you like it, Mom". When she didn't laugh enough.

Be aware though, that the Canadian Mime Theatre isn't just for children. It's for people, and its high level of performance makes it a group which will be much appreciated in Halifax, if it returns. It certainly should.



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