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## tnb »

It's finally happened: Theatre New Brunswick director, Walter Learning (quoted as saying 90 percent of Canadian plays are garbage) has found a new Canadian play he likes, and likes enough to direct it himself as the second of TNB's shows for 1973.

LEAVING HOME by David French will be TNB's first-ever new script, and it is obviously an excellent choice. The play has received nothing but acclaim during two runs at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre (which devotes itself to new Canadian scripts) and during a run of the same production by special invitation at Montreal's Centaur Theatre.

Said Learning, "I was quoted accurately - I read about 130 or so original plays each year hoping to find something new and exciting for TNB's growing audiences. It was a joy to discover LEAVING HOME, a brand new play that isn't just acceptable, but exceptionally fine, and it is making unprecedented waves on the national theatre scene."

The play, which combines stirring drama with uproarious comedy, concerns a Newfoundland family displaced in Toronto, with one son stumbling into a doomed teenage marriage and the other groping toward independence. Toronto Star critic Urjo Kareeda, famed for his incisive and

often vitriolic post-mortems of plays he considers less than adequate, said of this one, "French's beautiful play commends immediate audience response through the meticulous accuracy of his observation and the honesty of his emotional insights . . . quick-silver variations of moods and textures."

Montreal Star critic Zelta Heller spoke of the young Newfoundland playwright, ("in his mouth Newfie is beautiful") as having captured "with a devotion that must have been tearingly sacrificial of his most private emotions, the moments of family cheer and music, and the endless rubbing and wrangling and interdestructiveness that his characters cannot help but generate."

"They must love each other, they must claw at each other, they must laugh at each other and together, in the end, they must tear themselves away from each other, whether it be to survive or to perish."

Leading the cast of seven are Sandy Webster as Jacob, the fighting cock of a father, and Joan Panton as his wife Mary, who tries ineffectually to mend the rifts between her husband and the older son.

Larry Aubrey (seen last month in TNB's HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES) is Ben, the continual victim of his father's frustrated hopes. Neil Munro is Billie, the younger son trapped into untimely marriage with Kathy (Carole Galloway) his 16-year-old girlfriend. Playing Kathy's nearfloozy mother is Lynne Gorman, and mom's new boyfriend, and undertaker whom she nicknames The Formaldehyde Kid, will be played by Walter Learning.

LEAVING HOME opens at the Playhouse, Fredericton, on March 12, with a special preview Student Buck Night on Sunday March 11.

Theatre New Brunswick has been invited by CFB Cornwallis, near Halifax, to take LEAVING HOME, to the base for a performance on March 21st.

The play which opens in Fredericton March 12, was described by the Toronto Star as having "remarkable dynamic life . . . the lacerating quality of inter-family warfare carries both superb comedy and powerful emotional force . . . an overwhelming dramatic experience."

TNB, which plays regularly in nine New Brunswick centres, has only left the province on two previous occasions: THE MOUSETRAP (1970) and HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES (1973) both were invited to the Charlottetown Conferation Centre.

## RON KOSTYNIUK RELIEFS

During the month of March, the work of Canadian artist, Ron Kostyniuk, will be on display at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

"Ron Kostyniuk Reliefs" is another structuralist exhibition by a western Canadian artist, who began his career as a biologist. The relative preponderance of structuralist activity in the Canadian prairies is easily explained by the long-time presence in Saskatoon of one of the international proponents of constructivism, Eli Bornstein.

Included in this exhibition are twenty-five reliefs of scale, four feet square. The reduction of form to elemental geometric shapes is also echoed in the palette which consists almost solely of the primary colours and white and black.

Kostyniuk claims to have had little interest in art and artists as a young man. It was while he was a student at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon that he met Professor Eli Bornstein, formerly head of the Fine Arts Department, who introduced Kostyniuk to the writings of Charles Biederman, and the work of structuralists. The relationship between art and science has always interested Kostyniuk, in particular, the orientation of relief art to nature and specifically to biological systemic and cellular organizations.

The artist is presently a member of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Calgary.

## notes

- Feb 27 First day of Camera Club exhibition, Art Centre
- Mar 6 Last day of Camera Club Exhibition, Art Centre
- Mar 7 First day of Peter Daghish - Wall Hangings and Lithographs, Art Centre
- Mar 6 First day of Banners by Raphael and Venor, Art Centre
- Mar 12 Tickets available on campus for Mime performance by T. Daniel.
- Mar 20 Mime performance by T. Daniel, at the Playhouse, 8:15; last Creative Arts Event for 1972-73.
- Mar 2 - 6 Exhibition of Student work in the Art Centre.
- Mar 14 - 28 First day of exhibition of Photographs by Fernando Poyatos, Art Centre.
- Mar 15 Historical Society meeting, Art Centre Gallery
- Mar 15 Poetry reading by PEI poets, sponsored by the Fiddlehead, Art Centre Studio.
- Mar 4 Sunday afternoon reception for Student Exhibition and Camera Club, Art Centre 2 - 4:30.