ARTS

## **D LIFE is off-beat theatre** WIL

by Suzanne Kennedy

Wild Life Written by Diego Matamoros Poor Alex Theatre

If you are interested in a really offbeat, and interesting piece of theatre, then Wild Life is for you.

The show, put on by Theatre

Columbus, is about Auguste Malazar, played by Diego Matamoros, an unlucky romantic lounge singer, who ends up having a nervous breakdown on stage, and is sent to a resort to get himself together. While at the resort he meets Elaine, played by Tracy Wright a dull, boring young girl who lives out her fantasies

(Michael Simpson) a retired doctor who also had a breakdown for various tragic reasons, and is now running the resort. There is also a love interest in the form of yuppie Lance Koiner, who goes around spouting poetry to Elaine, and who Aunt Virginia has a more than passing interest in.

through Harlequin romance novels.

Elaine's bizarre aunts, Roo (who is into vibes and auras and that sort of thing) and Virginia (who has just returned from living with a primitive tribe for 12 years) played by Leah Cherniak and Martha Ross, take her to the same resort for a vacation. There they meet Will Wordock,

The Arlecchino character has been haunting Auguste for a while, and in the forest Auguste finally has to face his problems, only he finds he can't. Michael Simpson plays the Arlec-

chino character as well, and he moves around the stage quickly, with the grace of a dancer. Arlecchino's high spirited mischief runs the gamut, from duck calls, to strapping a huge, bright red phallus to his waist, and chasing Auguste all through the audience, trying to get him to sleep with Elaine.

Take these very strange charac-

ters, get them lost in the woods, and

throw in the Commedia Del Arte

character of Arlecchino, and things

become extremely wild.

The play ends rather suddenly, and most things that were presented in the play are never resolved. The audience is left hanging, waiting for a statement about the characters, or theme, which is never made.

Theatre Columbus, founded by Leah Cherniak and Martha Ross, has been running for eight years, and has consistently won Dora Mavor Moore awards/nominations, for their unique theatrical style, which includes Commedia, vaudeville, and silent film techniques. Almost all their productions have been written and directed by their own company members.

Wild Life continues at the Poor Alex Theatre, 296 Brunswick Avenue (across the street from Brunswick House), until March 31. Tickets are \$12-15, plus GST. Tuesday nights and Sunday matinees are Pay What You Can. To reserve call 927-8998.



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