

Experience versus Innocence

by William Dodge
Chorus by: Euripides

An interior duel. For two voices, one chorus.

Innocence: Where is everyone? I thought this was the big poetry revival show. Three British poets touring all across Canada, last stop, the Neptune Theatre in Halifax.

Experience: You fool, nobody goes to poetry readings anymore, especially not in this here town. Let's get out, leave Neptune before the next poem is read. We'll find a watering hole nearby.

Chorus: Hard are the labors of god; hard, but his service is sweet.

Innocence: But these poets have come a long way. Look at this young fellow Brian Patten. Hands in pockets, nervous about airplanes flying over his head. His poems speak to people.

Experience: Who cares! The theatre is nearly empty. Let him climb back with the rest into that ivory tower of words.

Chorus: They, they were the first of all, whose whirling feet kept time to the strict beat of the taut hide and the squeal of the wailing flute.



Brian Patten

Innocence: But here is humour everyone can appreciate. Sample these lines by Patten on great cosmic misery: "In the morning I get up and there's nothing to do, I tell myself it's only temporary."

Experience: I prefer the two older British poets, Geoffrey Hill and C.H. Sisson. They speak with the command of age. It's Hill's respect for tradition I like, listen: "And a snail sugared its new stone."

Chorus: A tongue without reins, defiance, unwisdom—their end is disaster.

Innocence: But Patten makes verse. He's subtle in his craft. The forms never impose. He is a chief contributor to the revival of poetry readings in England. His work has been translated into Spanish, Dutch, Italian and Polish.

Experience: A man of years has more to say. Geoffrey Hill wrote a version of Ibsen's poetic drama 'Brand' for the National Theatre in London. C.H. Sisson just finished a translation of Dante's 'Divine Comedy'. His poetry is sharp, more direct than Patten.

Chorus: Briefly, we live. Briefly, then die.

Innocence: Scholars are one thing, it's the life on the street people want to hear, not the dead men of letters, resurrected by the likes of Hill and Sisson.

Experience: Listen to the language of C.H. Sisson, it's frank, terse, never superfluous: "It was a blaze and I was dark," or—"All that comes out of the womb is all that goes into the tomb," and—"Words when I have them come out."



Geoffrey Hill



C.H. Sisson

Chorus: They, they were the first of all whose whirling feet kept time...

Innocence: That's it. We need real words, words with

power to reach and change people.

Experience: Images are more direct. Language is something refined. Look at television, the advertisers all know where to find their audiences today.

Chorus: Briefly, we live. Briefly, then die.

Innocence: Hill, Sisson and Patten are three of Britain's best known poets. I wonder how our three Canadian poets we sent in exchange were received in England.

Experience: Better than these poor chaps were in Halifax, I'm sure.

Chorale sings

With the triumph of last Spring's St. Matthew Passion still ringing in Metro's ears, the Dalhousie Chorale is preparing to launch its second season under the direction of Dr. Walter H. Kemp.

The 1978-79 season will be a very active one, and reflects the significant role the Chorale continues to play in community cultural life. The repertoire and concert schedule for this year includes: Nov. 16—taping a C.B.C. National Broadcast, participating in a concert presentation of Lehar's "Gypsy Baron"; Dec. 17—the first annual afternoon of Family Carols, with brass ensemble and children's voices;

March 30, 31—Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* (a Passion in terms of post-War tragedy, with spirituals replacing the traditional chorales); and on Good Friday, April 13, Handel's *Messiah*.

The Dalhousie Chorale welcomes vocally proficient members of the public to join. Rehearsals are in Room 121 of the Dalhousie Arts Centre, Mondays from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., with sectional rehearsals built into the schedule as the season proceeds. Those wishing to audition should attend rehearsal and speak to Dr. Walter H. Kemp, Conductor of the Choir.

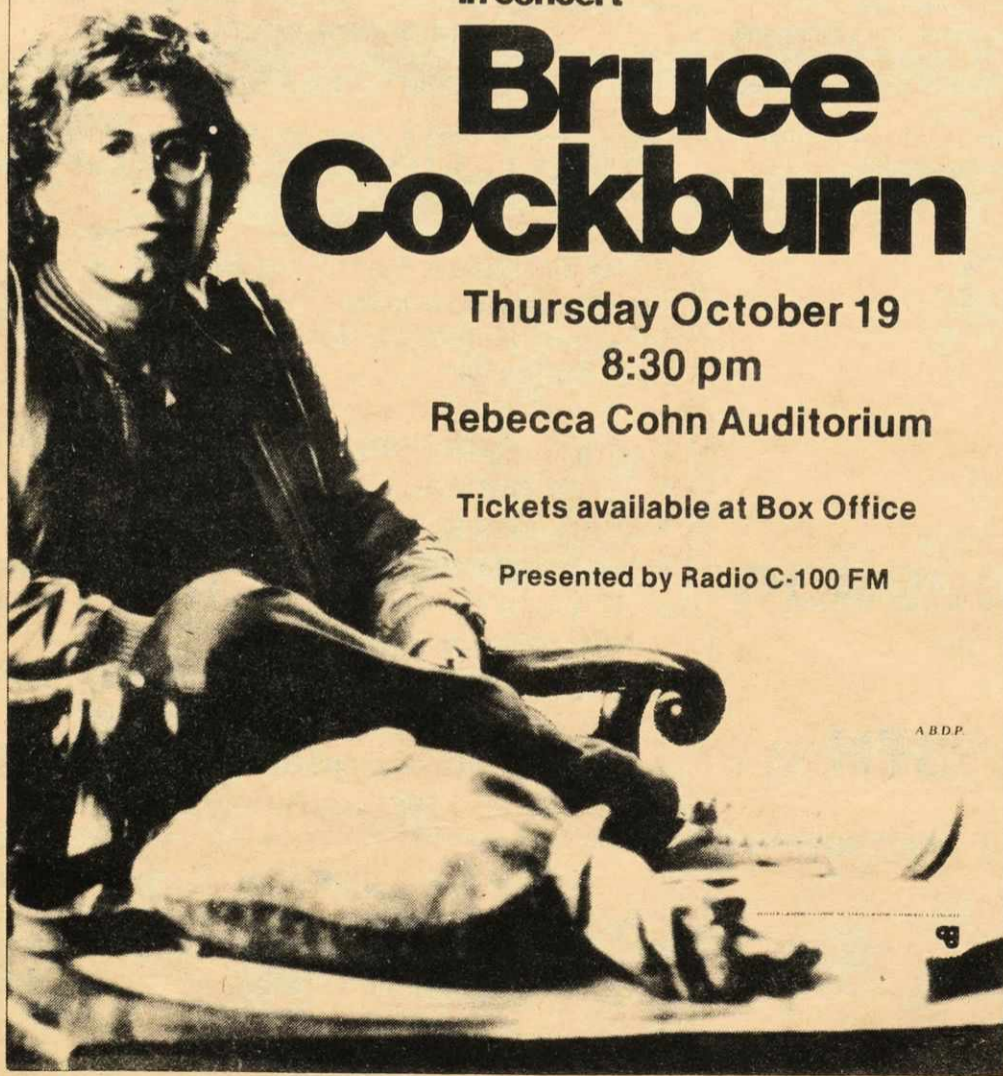
in concert

Bruce Cockburn

Thursday October 19
8:30 pm
Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

Tickets available at Box Office

Presented by Radio C-100 FM



Notice

Grads: Deadline for yearbook photos is **February 15**. Submit to Yearbook offices, 3rd floor SUB

Don't just

Sit on it!

It's your world now. Why not make your contribution by becoming a volunteer with us for two years in a developing country.

Do it! The sooner you apply the sooner we can place you in a suitable posting.

How to apply:

Attend the Information Meeting Friday Oct 27 7:30 pm Life Sciences Bldg Rm. 2805 or phone Dalhousie CUSO 424-2404

as an alternative CUSO