

Story of Sussex, NB, to premiere TNB season

By ROSEMARIE HOPPS

T.N.B. celebrated its eighth birthday last Friday afternoon with a two hour long party. Approximately sixty people attended the event and were regaled with wine, food, dancing, song and some witticisms from Walter Learning.

Dr. Mildew's Marvellous Medicine Show entertained with a repertoire of dancing, music, and juggling. Dr. Mildew's cast were the members of the T.N.B. Young Company: "Dr. Mildew" - Paul Hannah, "The Contessa" - Ilkay Silk, "Miss Lucia" - Lucia Lauzon, "Mr. Maslow" - Maslow Lauzon and "Mr. Morgan" - Steve Morgan.

"Prairie Tuna" provided music, including a rendition of Happy Birthday as Robert Howie cut the impressive Birthday cake.

Walter Learning, acting as M.C. for the occasion, showed those attending a number of out-takes from the current television commercials. Henry Beckman luckily was not present; he might not have been amused at his mistakes as we are.

T.N.B.'s upcoming season extends an offering of a variety of drama. They will present Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," Arthur Miller's "The Price," a Feydeau farce - "Made in Heaven," a comedy, "Jumpers," by Tom Stoppard, the courtroom drama "Clarence Darron" by David W. Rintels and a surprise play to close the season in October.

As part of a new format, extra performances have been added to the Moncton and Saint John runs; in Fredericton, opening nights will be Saturdays, causing Student Buck Night to fall on a Friday.

Season tickets are available, the discount to purchasers being about 22 per cent, at the box office in the playhouse.

The premiere production of this, the ninth season for T.N.B., will be "The Dollar Woman" written by Walter Learning and Alden Nowlan. The play is set in the Sussex area, of the 1800's and deals with "paper auctions", a system whereby each year the community's poor were auctioned to the lowest bidder in much the same way as government tenders are let today.

Timothy Bond will direct "The Dollar Woman". His other credits

for T.N.B. include "Frankenstein," "Sleuth," "The Servant of Two Masters," "The Fourposter" and "How the Other Half Loves." Mr. Bond has recently completed directing the film "Deadly Harvest" starring Clint Walker.

Lewis White, the man whose responsibility it is to organize the pauper auctions will be played by Michael Donaghue, the "there's no other kind once you've tasted . . ." character from the ketchup commercial. Mr. Donaghue has played several roles in Canadian theatres from the Citadel in Edmonton and Theatre Calgary to Stratford. He recently appeared in two Feydeau farces and as Phil Romano in "That Championship Season."

Leo Leyden plays George Francis Train, Citizen of the World - the social reformer and orator in "The Dollar Woman". He comes to TNB having just completed a run in "Comedians" at the St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto. He played Polonius in the rock version of "Hamlet" at the Charlottetown Festival and recently appeared on Broadway in "Habeas Corpus". Mr. Leyden will soon be seen in Timothy Bond's move "Deadly Harvest".

Sean Sullivan is a familiar face to TV viewers. He has appeared in everything from "Police Surgeon", "The Beachcombers", "Wojeck", "Adventures in Rainbow Country", "The Avengers" to "Howdy Doody". His film credits include "2001 - A Space Odyssey", "Face Off" and "Nobody Waved Good-bye". In 1972 he was named Best Actor by the Canadian Film Awards. With TNB, he played "John" in "The Head, Guts, and Soundbone Dance". He also created the role of Jacob Mercer in the original stage and TV presentation of "Leaving Home" and "Of the Fields Lately". In "The Dollar Woman" Mr. Sullivan plays Tom Roach.

Kenneth Wickes was last seen with Theatre New Brunswick as the overwrought and hilarious Dr. Lombardi in "The Servant of Two Masters". He played two roles here in "The School for Scandal" and in "The King and I" and "Philadelphia Here I Come". Herbert Whittaker of the Globe and Mail once said that Mr. Wickes "owns a face that Marcel Marceau would envy". His stage and television credits include "Sinbad"

"Marat/Sade", "Waiting for Godot", and several appearances on "Man at the Centre" and "Festival" for CBC.

If Claude Rae's radio credits alone were listed it would take several pages. Between CBC radio dramas he also finds time for stage work. For TNB he has appeared in "Frankenstein", "Death of a Salesman", and "The School for Scandal". He recently played Sid Davis in "Ah Wilderness" at the Gryphon Theatre in Barrie, Ontario and in a feature film "The Tar Sands" for CBC. In this production he plays Alex MacKay, the tippling judge.

Barbara Stephen plays Alice White, the wife of the overseer of the poor. Ms. Stephen last appeared with Theatre New Brunswick as the maid in "A Flea in Her Ear", the maid in "Frankenstein" and "The Man Most Likely To . . .". After those engagements she returned to her home in Stratford, Ontario where she appeared in all five main stage productions at the Festival Theatre. This summer she will play Jane Shore in "Richard III" and Diana in "All's Well That Ends Well" at Stratford.

Sheila Haney's last show with TNB was five years ago in "Philadelphia Here I Come". She has been extremely busy since. Most recently she played Madame Arcati in "Blythe Spirit" at St. Catherines. Her other roles have included Madame de Morte in "Ring Round the Moon" at Bastion Theatre in Victoria and Mrs. Tarleton in "Misalliance" at Neptune Theatre. She played Mrs. Dudgeon in the Shaw Festival bicentennial tour to Philadelphia and Washington. The show also ran at The Royal Alexandria Theatre in Toronto. In "The Dollar Woman", Ms. Haney plays Maggie Harvey, the compassionate woman who takes into her home several paupers.

John Peters first toured with

TNB as Joe in "The Daughter-in-Law". In this production he plays Peter Fraser, the court clerk. Mr. Peters has acted in various Montreal-based productions including "Hamlet", "Bethune", "Absurd Person Singular" and in TV shows such as "Excuse My French". He played Clerval in Centaur Theatre's production of "Frankenstein".

"The Dollar Woman" will be Warwick Learning's fourth stint with TNB. He created the role of William in "Frankenstein" and played the dead boy in "The Head, Guts, and Soundbone Dance". Warwick is a grade four French immersion student at Liverpool Street School in Fredericton. He likes acting, watching "Space 1999" and making models.

Michael Eagan, from St. Stephen, N.B., has become one of Canada's busiest designers. Working out of Montreal, he has

designed nine shows for TNB (including "The Head, Guts, and Soundbone Dance" and "The King and I" eighteen shows for the Saidye Bronfman Centre ("Kaddish", "Captives of The Faceless Drummer", "The Head, Guts, and Soundbone Dance"); and sixteen shows for Montreal's Centaur Theatre ("Old Times", "Summer", "Hamlet", "Frankenstein", "Riverlisp"). Mr. Eagan teaches design workshops sponsored by Theatre Canada in Ontario, as well as classes at the National Theatre School, for whom he designed "The Rivals", "Three Penny Opera", "Blood Wedding" and others.

"The Dollar Woman" runs January 22 to 29 in Fredericton and is then on tour throughout New Brunswick.

Buck night for "The Dollar Woman" is Friday night, January 21st.

WINTER CARNIVAL

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Movie - real terror for Coeds

"Black Christmas" is the movie that is guaranteed to make your skin crawl. Easily the most powerful of its genre, this movie takes up where Vincent Price left off and makes his efforts look Mickey Mouse by comparison.

"Black Christmas" is a story about the ghastly murders of coeds who live in an off-campus residence similar to Maggie Jean. In sharp contrast to the series of gruesome atrocities, is the surprisingly good comedy found in the first part of the movie. However, the latter portion confines itself to providing enough nightmare material to last

the rest of the term. If the movie itself doesn't make you cringe in your seat, then the effect of sitting in a darkened room with several hundred people screaming in unison, on cue, most certainly will. Halfway through the show you begin to wonder why you paid money to be terrorized for two hours but don't dare get up and leave because then everyone will know what a coward you are.

If having your skin crawl is not your idea of entertainment then stay away from "Black Christmas", especially if you live in Maggie Jean.

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