

# A taste of Atlantic theatre

## Veronique MacKenzie-Bourne's Twisted Theme Park closes on good note

BY BRIANNE JOHNSTON AND JOHANNES WHELDON

*Twisted Theme Park*, Veronique MacKenzie-Bourne's newest offering, closed this past Saturday after running for five nights at Neptune's DuMaurier Theatre.

This collection of five short pieces, entitled "The Audition," "Spoiled Brat," "Home Shopping Shopping Network," "An Evening at the Ballet" and "Resistance is Futile," combined traditional ballet, modern dance and movement comedy.

It was an interesting show which drew from MacKenzie Bourne's diverse background and offered the audience a taste of independent, modern Atlantic Canadian theatre. Her work pokes fun at ordinary folk struggling to balance career, family and friends, while trying to keep their sanity. She opens up her life to her audience, showing us her fears, insecurities and ultimately her hopes for the future. The audience laughs with her and sometimes at her, recognizing their own frailties and dilemmas in the characters she creates.

MacKenzie-Bourne has an eclectic background of artistic training, which began as a child when she studied at the National Ballet School. She then went on to

study at York University in Toronto, as well as doing creative movement at the Tanner Institute in Utah. She now lives in Halifax, with husband Brian Bourne of Rawlins Cross, teaching modern dance and creative movement at Halifax Dance.

*Twisted Theme Park* incorporates the sublime with the political. Whether it was warning the audience of the dangers of spoiling their children or how society looks to the entertainment industry to set a quality of living they can never achieve, MacKenzie-Bourne doesn't pull punches.

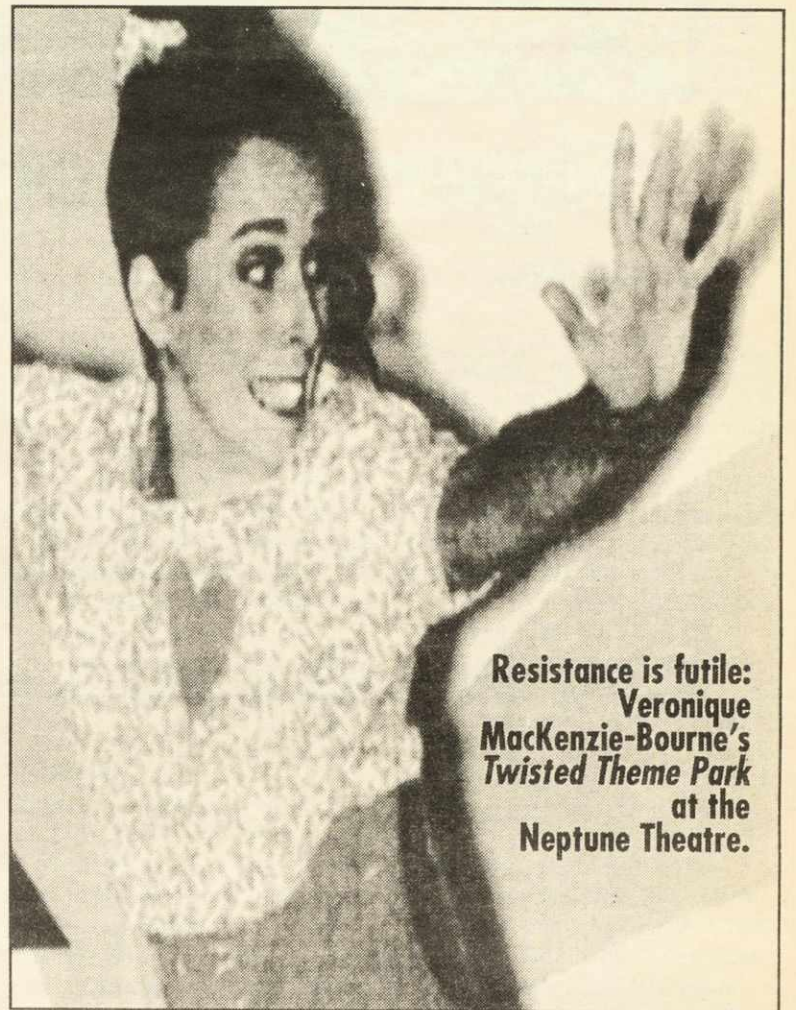
"Resistance is Futile," which was also performed at Dalhousie University's Universal Shelter Benefit a couple of weeks ago, makes a strong statement about the rigors of daily life women face attempting to juggle work and family. The cardboard

cut out of a male in the piece seems less of a partner and more of a dependant, leaving one of us somewhat more concerned than the other.

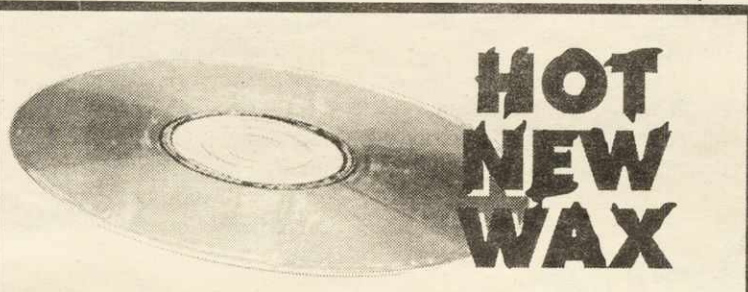
Yet as it ends, and MacKenzie-Bourne is seen marching around the stage in a Wonder Woman suit, the message becomes clear. Women of today are indeed wonder women for accomplishing all of their daily feats. Whether we like it or not, sometimes their men don't always help.

MacKenzie-Bourne is a creative and talented woman who also has strong moral and political views. She combined all of these qualities to create *Twisted Theme Park*, which had elements which could appeal to everyone.

Both entertaining and enjoyable, our only regret is that more people didn't get out to enjoy this interesting and provocative mix of dance and comedy.



Resistance is futile: Veronique MacKenzie-Bourne's *Twisted Theme Park* at the Neptune Theatre.



### Mose Scarlett, Jackie Washington, and Ken Whitely — *We'll Meet Again*

(The Borealis Recording Company)

Along with 2 guitars, a mandolin, and a raspy voice comes a fusion of folk lyric and classic blues rhythm. If you crave the smokey tavern blues and the casual ambience of a local pub, here's a disc that will save you the cab fare and the pricey beer tab. — Aaron

### The Kickline — *Blow me Apart*

(Independent)

The Kickline's debut CD immediately puts them among the best that Halifax has to offer. *Blow me Apart* opens with an amazing track called "Legal in London." Following in the footsteps of Treble Charger and Thrush Hermit, this CD has a certain spark these bands do not. Innovation keeps Kickline in the forefront of Halifax pop, and we can anticipate more excellent work in the future. — Joel

### Chris Colepaugh — *16 Second Solace*

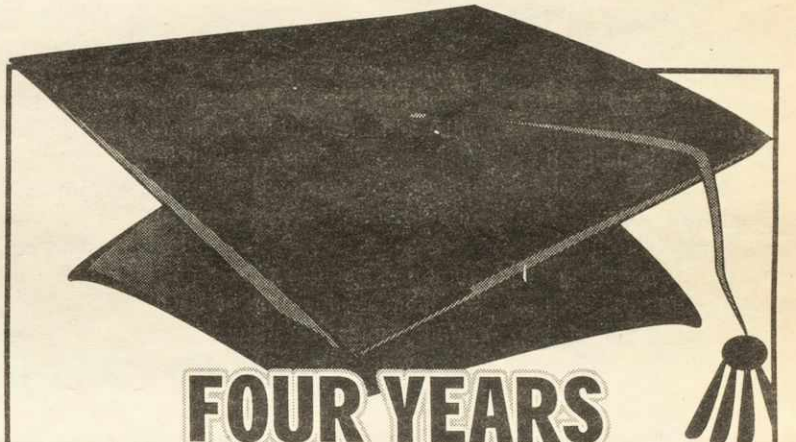
(Independent)

Although the name of this album is ridiculous, it was a pleasant surprise when I put it in my stereo. With a sound not unlike the Black Crowes or the New Meanies, Chris Colepaugh's superbly tasteful guitar licks, solos and searing vocals combine with a solid groove in every track, keeping you entertained for the duration of the disc. — Joel

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