

# Fad or Trend?

By KEVIN PASQUINO

Now that it's 1986 we're closer to the mysterious '90s than we are to the Me Generation of the '70s. Where we're heading is hard to determine, but where we've been... that's the subject for a documentary, and who better to analyze the past than the CBC, known world-wide for their award-winning documentaries.

But wait! This is something new! CBC looks at pop entertainment in the '80s! Aren't these the people that air *the fifth estate* and *Hockey Night in Canada*?

It looks as if the CBC is trying to broaden its range of audience appeal, and *The Revue*, a TV special airing Friday, March 21 at 7:00, attempts to combine CBC analysis techniques with *Entertainment Tonight's* celebrity appeal. Video jockey Catherine McClenahan and discjockey John Majhor are the hosts of this show that looks back at the '80s and the trends that formed the international entertainment industry of 1986.

Comparisons to *Entertainment Tonight* are inevitable, so let them be discussed openly. Both shows have male and female hosts, both shows attempt to take an "in-depth look" at the entertainment world, and both shows feature interviews with popular celebrities.

But while *Entertainment Tonight* tends to glorify its guests to the point of god-like worship, *The Revue* makes sure its subjects stay on topic. *The Revue* has more than its fair

share of stars being interviewed (Paul Shaffer, Roger Daltrey, Giori Armani, etc.) but each celebrity deals with one specific topic, one specific question. Kate Bush speaks only about how she uses videos to enhance her music, and if she has one of the best albums of her career released, it's not mentioned unless it's part of the question.

While limiting the stars interviewed to only one topic deadens the show's potential for spontaneity, it allows many different aspects of the entertainment scene to be studied. Television, movies, comedy, rock videos, fashion—all are studied in this documentary. It's a scatter gun technique, and it tends to overlook some trend-setters (such as Bill Cosby on television in favor of *Miami Vice*) but such oversights are inevitable in a show that has such large ambitions and only an hour to express them.

A problem with the show is that 1986 may be a little too soon to separate the trends of the '80s from the fads (was Madonna fad or is she still a trend-setter?) but the show strongly argues that we are in the age of the entertainment crossover: music begat videos, videos begat *Flashdance*, *Flashdance* begat *Miami Vice*, *Miami Vice* begat Pepsi commercials, and so on. The by-product of these crossovers are stars such as Eddie Murphy and Sting who act, sing, perform on television, produce and do whatever else they feel is a challenge. They are mega-stars who

can do anything and will try anything.

Another by-product of the crossover age is the show itself. *The Revue* combines the techniques of a CBC documentary with the stars of a TV newsmagazine. It analyzes and interviews in equal amounts. Where we've been is studied, and while where we're headed is still uncertain, *The Revue* gives one an idea where things might go. If nothing else, things look interesting.



Excalibur is proud to present:

## HENRIETTA

(third cousin to Carmella)

Henrietta says: Don't chicken out on end of year performances.

Nestled into Burton Auditorium the theatre grads are planning an eggstravaganza of events. See p. 14

**Excalibur's weekly guide to arts events on Campus.**

If you are planning an arts event, drop by Excalibur at 111 Central Square or call 667-3201 and ask for Elliott or Dave.

### Theatre Theatre Theatre Theatre Theatre Theatre

York Graduate Theatre Program Presents:

*Merry Wives of Windsor*

Mar. 24 & 25 - 7 p.m., Mar. 26 - noon

In the Boom Boom Room

Mar. 25 & 27 - 7 p.m.

Burton Auditorium, information 667-3449/3730

Divisions, Crossroads, Turns of Mind: Some

New Irish Art

AGYU and Winters Gallery, until Mar. 23

Readings Readings Readings Readings

Canadian Women Writers at Glendon: Finale

event - Toronto poets Maria Jacobs, Diane

Keating, Jay Macpherson, Miriam Waddington

Mar. 27, 7 p.m., Senior Common Room, Third

Floor, York Hall, Glendon College

Paintings by Murray R. Kropf

Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, until Mar. 23

Stong Student Show: works of visual art by

Stong students

Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, Mar. 24-Apr. 3

L'art Pense: works by 12 Quebec artists

Glendon Gallery, until Mar. 23

Poësis '86: Founders' annual art competition

Founders College Gallery, Mar. 26-Apr. 5

Galleries Galleries Galleries Galleries Galleries

Sculpture Area Exhibition

IDA Gallery, until Mar. 21

Experimental Area Exhibition

IDA Gallery, Mar. 24-28

Visions: work of the Founders Photography

Tutorial

Founders College Gallery, until Mar. 23

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