

Fredericton talent at TNB



Richard Donat (EV) and Lynn Pollocks *Family Trappings*
Woodman (Bob) star in Sharon Photo by Geoffrey Gammon.

By KAREN MAIR
Entertainment Editor

Family Trappings, TNB's latest production, is a resounding success. Sharon Pollock, a Fredericton native, displayed her extraordinary talents as a playwright and as a director in this five-character engrossing drama of one family's efforts to cope with an alcoholic.

Family Trappings is an unusual play, in that it uses flashbacks to relive the past of Ev (Richard Donat), Catherine (Terry Tweed) and the alcoholic Bob (Lynn Woodman).

Flashbacks are done with relative ease on television, but on a theatrical stage it is no mean feat. Pollock overcomes this would-be problem by having the character of Catherine portrayed by two different actresses, both on stage at the

same time. The younger Katie is played by Cheryl Swarts and the older Catherine is portrayed by Terry Tweed of *The Tomorrow Box*, and *Can't Pay? Won't Pay* fame. The flashback effect is further enhanced by Richard Donat's ability to portray his character as either a young med student or an aging Doctor as the scene demands.

Katie is an integral part of the play. A lot of the things she says have to be understood in order for the plot to make sense. Swarts plays the role of a young girl amazingly well. Although the credibility of her dialogue with the older Catherine is doubtful it is nevertheless effective. *Family Trappings* is a refreshing play. Not often do you see a play in which every character is relevant to the plot. The only character besides the immediate family is Oscar (Graham McPherson). Oscar is an successful-but-not-so-

successful Doctor. He provides character contrast to Ev. Where Oscar finds it hard to solicit patients for his practise, Ev, on the other hand, is recognized by the town for his long-standing service to the community as a Doctor. Ev is even going to have the new hospital named after him (haven't we heard this one before?).

Ev is so caught up in his practise that he is ignorant (or at least unmindful) of the goings-on in his own family. His wife is an alcoholic, his best friend, Oscar is half in love with his wife and his daughter is slowly but surely being alienated.

Another interesting aspect of this play is the ingenious set design. The set is comprised of three desks (the drawers of which are constantly searched for booze) and three stair wells. These stair wells serve as partial exits for different characters in order to focus attention on the characters playing center stage. The set also includes three armchairs that the players sit in, drink in, cry in etc. Although, when I first arrived I thought the set was ludicrous it certainly served its purpose well. The set enabled the characters to remain on stage but not take part in the immediate scene.

The only fault I could find in the play was the way in which the character of Ev was portrayed. His callous indifference of his wife's drinking problem was not real.

Family Trappings is a disturbing play. I deliberately left out a lot of plot detail--you have to see it, to believe it.

Odds & Entz

If anyone is wondering, ENTZ is a short form of the word ENTERTAINMENT (bet you didn't know that, did you!). This is a new column to save my neck. Occasionally, in fact, frequently, I get these boring press releases that different people (Kings, Shiekhs, Presidents, P.R. people, etc.) want me to print so that you will know what is going on both on and off Campus. There are two major problems with that... one...if I *do* print them the Editor would kill me because press releases are very short and they make for very boring reading...two...if I *don't* print them then the people who sent them to me get their backs up and their feathers ruffled. Quite the image, eh? Soooo, I figured I would rewrite the press releases and try to present them to you in a more readable fashion.

Without further ado...a concert that was to feature Rosemarie Landry and the UNB resident musicians in which was postponed in late January will be held this Sunday, March, 9, at The Playhouse. If you still have the tickets for the January concert you can use them, if not, then you can purchase new ones at The Playhouse box-office or the Art Centre in Mem Hall.

CHSR is trying to raise money. If you like 'sludgabilly' music then you can check out Montreal based, DEJA VOODOO live in concert in the SUB Cafe this tonight at 8:30 and support their cause. In addition to DEJA VOODOO, THE GUILT PARADE and THE LAUGHING KHADAFYS will be performing. Price is 3\$ and the cause is a worthwhile one.

D'Avray Noontime Series will be presenting *Friends*, a 45 minute performance of music, dancing and improvisational acting by a group of Junior High students of the Fredericton area. This show will be presented on March 12 at 12:30 sharp.

Coming soon to the Edmund Casey Hall is Contact Theatre with Marshall Button's *Lucien*, a tale of an Acadian millworker. This one-man show promises to be interesting so keep your ears open for ticket sales. On another note...WORKSHOP PRODUCTIONS will be coming out with a play sometime soon so keep your ears open for that too.

On a final note... has anybody ever heard of a band called HORSELIPS? I am serious and I am looking for an album of theirs so, if you have one or know of one please stop in at the Bruns office and tell me about it.



By KAREN MAIR
Entertainment Editor

Your Corner

With threatening ominous
the cosmic shadows
hover in the
foreground
issuing a silent
challenge

to man and to man's
universe
the spectroscopic
contrivances

maintain their silent vigil
aimed skyward
in perfect equilibrium
does man prevail...

or does our
empyrean universe
affirm its infinite

supremacy?

By
Wendy Proctor