



"... and then he put his head between them and went bbbbl bbbbl!"

-- Norm Foster gets serious at the Playhouse

SEX, MONEY, POWER, AND ADULTERY AT PLAYHOUSE CLAIM!

By KAREN MAIR

It might have been considered risqué subject matter, but playwright Norm Foster has no compunction about bringing sex, money, power and ... ta dah ... adultery onto the stage in Theatre New Brunswick's season opener *My Darling Judith*.

All rather complicated, *My Darling Judith* features a company man, his dippy wife, his calculating mistress and his tumbling company sales underling.

Former Fredericton disc jockey Norm Foster outdid himself in this one as the stage is set for a sultry weekend of scheming. Company man David orchestrates the seduction of his wife by one of his

employees (underling Carl) in order that he gain a quiet uncontested divorce and live happily ever after with his coniving mistress Ana.

Fortunately, there is humour and lots of it. Judith (played by Caroline Yeager) is a slightly nutty, quite tipsy, extremely unhappy woman and her dead pan humour carries the sordid plot off to perfection. I dare say Yeager's acting ability helped the role, but Foster's insight into the need of humour in a somewhat petty tale of "real life" is obvious. All the world loves a clown, but in this case the clown was an integral part of the play.

However, like all good things, the play comes to a

somewhat SOBERING end. David, who emerges as the wolf who wants his CAKE and NEEDS to eat too, ends up starving. First he is dumped by his mistress, and then his wife. John Blackwood (as David) is convincing, but his strident appearance on stage is a little too pat. But then aren't all creeps sometimes too pat? Me thinks.

As for Ana (Jenny Munday), her role is convincing if unattractive. She is the cold victim of love lost and is as hard as nails. To see her in an opposite role would be a treat -- everyone dislikes a cold hearted business woman.

And, alas, there is Carl. If the audience was any measure of the hero. No, he ... oops!! was going to let on whether the "great seduction" scene takes place. That would be cruel ... check it out for yourselves, the play continues until the 24th.

Foster's play, marked by Maritime repetitiveness and universal anecdotal humour was a hit.

"HAPPY HOUR & BROWN LEAF"

A DRAMATIC EXPLORATION OF THE IMPACT OF AIDS ON FAMILY AND SOCIAL LIFESTYLES

The Caribbean Circle, in association with the University of New Brunswick's Art Committee, is offering a dramatic exploration of the impact of AIDS on family and social lifestyles. "Happy Hour & Brown Leaf" consists of two short plays and an interlude of poetry, all written and directed by Kwame Dawes, a visiting Caribbean playwright and PhD student of English Literature here at UNB.

"Brown Leaf" opens the performance, focusing on a single

D'AVERY HALL NOON-TIME SERIES PRESENTS...

"Heavenly Chamber Music" with Baroque Musicians Duo Seraphim and L'Ensemble Arion'

Music lovers are in for a heavenly treat this Fall as 'Debut Atlantic' presents Duo Seraphim and L'Ensemble Arion in a tour that brings them from Fredericton, New Brunswick to Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. The two ensembles specializing in repertoire of the Baroque and Renaissance periods will be blending their musical talents and touring together through the Atlantic provinces between October 14th and October 25th.

(They will be performing at the d'Avery Hall Noontime Series on October 14, 1987 starting at 12:30 pm and concluding at 1:25 pm).

DUO SERAPHIM formed in 1985 when the expressive soprano, Valerie Kinslow, a native of Glace Bay, joined Ontario native Allan Fast, who

sings counter-tenor. It's an unusual and enchanting voice; higher than a tenor, but lower in pitch than a soprano.

L'ENSEMBLE ARION is a group of four musicians dedicated to the performance of baroque music. They perform on authentic instruments similar to those dating back to the period between the fifteenth and mid-sixteenth centuries. They are: violi da gamba performed by Betsy MacMillan; baroque flute performed by Claire Guimond; baroque violin performed by Chantal Remillard, and harpsichord performed by Hank Knox.

There is no admission charge to UNB/STU students with I.D. Adult seats costing \$6:00 will be available at the door.



scene of high dramatic tension around the hospital bed of a young, married man with only two months to live. Present are his homosexual lover, his mother, and his sister; but the condemnation of the wife and father who fail to appear is as palpable as the physical presence of the other characters. The play raises the painful issue of the difficulty our society has in offering sympathy to victims of sexually transmitted disease. The brown, dying leaf of this particular family tree does not make either moral judgement or sympathy easy as he manipulates his visitors' emotions. He draws them to his bedside, just as a tornado draws in its victims, and then

hurls two of them away again while he remains 'calm' (through physical weakness) - the eye of his own storm.

A variety of perspectives are presented in this presentation, ranging from the monologue of a victim with a different attitude than that of the dying man in "Brown Leaf" to a more objective overview of the extermination of a whole village. Each poem serves as a kind of snapshot; while the interlude as a whole has the quality of the opening sequence of shots from a movie - a sequence which flows by relatively quickly, leaving the spectator with various impressions but forcing her/him to postpone judgement until later.

Appearing in the plays are: Daphne Boxill, Claudette Franklin, Stephen Garland, Pam Lougheed, Lynn Reicker, William Stewart, and Errol Williams.

The show will run for three nights, Thursday, October 15 through Saturday, October 17 at Memorial Hall on the UNB campus here in Fredericton. The show starts each night at 8:00 pm; tickets cost \$5.00 (3.00 with Student I.D.) and are available at the Student Union Building (SUB) Office, the English Department on the second floor of Carleton Hall, or at Memorial Hall itself.

PAM LOUGHEED





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