

Eugene O'Neill's Play to occur at TNB

One of the 1st plays by the pre-eminent playwright Eugene O'Neil, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, will play to New Brunswick audiences from January 26 to February 17. Marti Maraden, who has worked with such noted directors as Robin Phillips, John Hirsh and Christopher Newton, directs her first TNB production, with set and costume design by Victoria Wallace and lighting design by Kevin Lamotte. Theatre New Brunswick's production O'Neill's dramatic piece, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* is presented with the support of du Maurier Council of the Arts.

A Moon for the Misbegotten is the first work by the Nobel and four-time Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Eugene O'Neill to be produced by Theatre New Brunswick. Written in 1943, this drama was then so far ahead of its time that it had to wait till 1974 to win its greatest monumental success on Broadway, when a bravo-ing, shouting opening night ovation greeted it. It won four Tony Awards.

Rose Graham will play the richly rewarding role of the big-hearted, Amazonian Josie, (the part has such scope that the 1973-74 Broadway production won Best Actress Tony Award for Colleen Dewhurst). Thomas Hauff will portray the burnt-out Jamie (a character based on O'Neill's older brother) and Al Kozlik (Phil Hogan) the conniving father. Peter Outerbridge will play double roles as the religious-minded Mike Hogan and the wealthy T. Stedman Harder.

The story centers on Josie, Jamie and Phil, three mistrustful misfits in a fateful encounter one moonlit night on the steps of Hogan's dilapidated farmhouse. Phil

Hogan hopes to manipulate a remission of his past-due on the farm that Jamie owns, and to prevent its sale to T. Stedman Harder, the neighbouring estate owner who covets it. Josie hopes it will be a night of coming together with Jamie, whom she has long loved; and the half-drunken Jamie seeks forgiveness and redemption for the guilty feelings that bedevil him.

Like O'Neill's highly acclaimed, Pulitzer Prize winning, *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* is highly autobiographical. This compassionate memorial to his brother, written twenty years after that brother's death, is not all a tale of sorrow; but enjoys frequent comedic relief provided in large by Josie's lovable rogue of a father. The irreverent, scheming Phil Hogan furnishes a strong thread of humour throughout much of the play, demonstrating that O'Neill possessed not only a tragic, but comedic genius as well.

A Moon for the Misbegotten will open in Fredericton on January 26, and continue the tour to Bathurst (February 5), Campbellton (February 6), The Miramichi (February 7), Saint John (February 8,9,10), St. Stephen (February 12), Sussex (February 13) and Moncton (February 14, 15,16 & 17). Tickets go on sale at TNB ticket outlets in all communities one week prior to the performance. Tickets are also available at the door for all performances.

For more information call TNB toll free at 1-800-442-9779 or 458-8344.

press release

A Moon for the Misbegotten

Theatre New Brunswick is proud to announce the next show of its 1989-90 season, *A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN* by the great American playwright, Eugene O'Neill. This is the first of O'Neill's works to be presented by TNB. "In past audience surveys, patrons indicated that they were interested in the production of a classic work" says TNB Director of Communications, Pat Steeves. "A play by Eugene O'Neill, one of the premiere North American dramatists, fits that bill perfectly."

A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN is the final drama from the pen of the four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. Written in 1943, it did not receive the attention it deserved until 1973, when its Broadway production starring Colleen Dewhurst and Jason Robards became a smash success, winning four Tony Awards. When it opened on Broadway, it was expected to run for five weeks, but due to its overwhelming success, it ran for over a year and a half.

A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN, O'Neill's soul-searching tale based on his beloved elder brother, Jamie O'Neill, traces the struggle of Josie Hogan and Jamie Tyrone to find love and salvation under "a silly mug of a moon" on a summer night in 1923. "It is a basically (dramatic) play, yet it should put to rest the belief that O'Neill lacked a sense of humour" (NY Post, Richard Watts).

A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN opens its tour in Fredericton on January 26 at 8:00 pm, and continues its tour to Bathurst (February 5), Campbellton (February 6), The Miramichi (February 7), Saint John (February 8 - 10), St. Stephen (February 12), Sussex (February 13) and Moncton (February 14 - 17). Tickets will go on sale in all communities one week prior to the performance (in Fredericton, 10 days prior). For further information, contact TNB at 458-8344.

UNB Film Society screens "The Big Sleep"

Touted as unfathomable even by its screenwriters, *The Big Sleep's* plot is extremely complicated, and the story unfolds at a manic pace, forcing the audience to follow the action in blind bewilderment.

This black and brooding tale is the definitive film noir, filled with the long shadows, dark streets and shady figures characteristic of the genre. Its hero is a man doggedly trying (and failing) to maintain a kind of professional integrity in an obscenely faithless world, and its cinematic style is perfectly developed to express this theme. The pervasive use of wide-angle lenses allows a great depth of field in the many moodily lit long shots of the film, while at the same time introducing an expressionistic distortion in close-ups. The controlled dramatic lighting of studio shots blends smoothly with location night-for-night shooting, and the pervasive gloom of both paralleled the moral nihilism of the film noir world.

The director, Howard Hawks, specialized in tough, spare narratives, as hard and taciturn as their heroes. Although he was also capable of producing witty comedies, he abhorred superfluous dialogue: "The average film has too much talk. You have to construct your scenes, set them up properly, and then let the spectator do a little work." For this film Hawks was able to gather all of the materials he needed to function at the top of his form: Bogart's cynical presence, Bacall's icy glamour, Raymond Chandler's hard-boiled novel, and the screenwriting talents of William Faulkner, Leigh Brackett and Jules Furthman.

The Big Sleep, to be screened January 19th and 20th, at 8 p.m., is UNB Film Society's first feature of the Winter 1990 term. All films are shown at Tiller Hall, room 102. Admission with a \$1.00 membership card is \$3.00, or you may purchase a term pass for all twelve films for only \$30.00 -- thus saving \$7.00 for the term. Tickets, schedules and memberships are available at the door.

press release

D'Avary Noon Series Presents Famous Jazz Performers

Two of Canada's hottest young brass players, Guy Few and Alain Trudel, will be performing at d'Avray Hall, Wednesday, January 24, 1990 at 12:30 p.m. sharp. The trumpet and trombone duo will perform nine concerts as they travel throughout the Atlantic provinces on a Debut Atlantic tour.

Guy Few is not only a prizewinning trumpeter, he is an accomplished pianist as well. He graduated from Wilfred Laurier University in 1986 in trumpet and piano performance, receiving a gold medal as the most distinguished graduate of the Faculty of Music. Mr. Few has collected numerous prizes on both instruments, including awards from the CBC Young Performers Competition, and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Mr. Few has an extensive repertoire, and has performed as soloist with the Vancouver and Saskatoon Symphonies, the National Arts Centre and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestras, and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

Alain Trudel was born in Montreal in 1966. He graduated from the Conservatoire de Musique de Montreal at the age of nineteen. In 1984, he won top honours in the Montreal Symphony Orchestra's Young Soloists Competition and the next year claimed first prize in the Canadian International Stepping Stone Competition. During the 1986-87 season he was principal trombonist with the Orchestra of Barcelona.

press release

Wid Flicks

Have you ever trekked to your local video rental outlet through the elementally unstable wilderness which is the Fredericton area with a monstrous thirst which might only be slaked by the rental of the latest video release? Have you ever undertaken this dangerous quest only to find that the last copy of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* has been filched by some evil force which has preceded you? At this point you have two options: 1) go back to your humble (and now drastically melancholic) dwelling and subject yourself to the wasteland of prime time television, or 2) make an alternate video choice.

Unless you spend your waking hours always in the company of your VCR there are probably a few movies you haven't seen. This brief, yet informative, column aims at making sure you don't get plucked when making your choice of videos to rent.

If your taste runs into the bizarre and surreal you might consider the movie *Eraserhead*, a late 70's (and first feature) release by director David Lynch, who is probably best known for the controversial film *Blue Velvet*. This black and white creation is short on foregrounded plot but laden with disturbing atmosphere and imagery. It follows the consciousness of a strong and simple soul named Henry who accidentally becomes the father of a not-quite-human toddler. Since the film is not fully grounded in reality (as you probably guessed) you as a viewer have the option of interpreting the "story" and images in myriad numbers of manners, but beware if you are squeamish or close minded.

In a more traditional vein is the film *Made in Heaven*, though it also has

some unusual twists. Timothy Hutton plays a young war veteran in the 1940's or early 1950's who sets out to California to find his fortune - only to die by drowning while saving a family who'd crashed their car into a lake. In Heaven he meets and falls in love with an unborn spirit played by Kelly McGillis. Just as they are about to marry McGillis' character discovers she is soon going to be born to a family on earth. Hutton's character is granted rebirth and a period of 30 years in which to find his love on earth, though he will not remember their meeting in heaven. This film is by director Alan Rudolph who apprenticed under Robert Altman, whose most known works are *Nashville* and *M.A.S.H.* The film features cameo appearances by rockers Neil Young, Rich Ocaseh and Tom Petty as well as Far Side cartoonist Gary Larson.

So until the next column remember if you don't find the movie you want, don't get mad, get creative and consider some of these alternative choices.

eric hill

if you have any interesting video favourites that are not and never have been available on screen please submit them to this column

