

Fredericton Hosts Drama Festival

The New Brunswick Adult Competitive Drama Festival being held in Fredericton from November 14 to 17 inclusive in the theatre of the new Centre Sainte-Anne (715 Priestman Street) is a showcase for the talents of four thriving drama groups from the province. UNB Workshop Productions are presenting *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams on November 14. This production is directed by Alvin Shaw who is well known to audiences in the region for the many award-winning productions he has directed for the N.B. Drama Society. Theatre goes in Fredericton will also recognize Alice Hamilton and Joan Spurway as seasoned veterans of the amateur stage in the Capital City while

F.H.S. English Teacher, Peter Pacey, has the lead male role. Theatre St. Thomas producing Paul Zindel's *The Effects of Gamma Rays* directed and produced by Ilky Silk. The cast includes some new faces as well as better known ones like Janice Hansen who has lengthy experience with university and high school drama. Friday evening will bring a change of pace with a musical comedy, *The Fantasticks* by Mount Allison's Windsor Players. Here the audience is invited to learn once again that the course of true love is never smooth and hear such well known songs as "Try to Remember the Kind of September." The play is produced by Professor Arthyr Motyer, former

Director of Drama at Bishops University and features the trained voices of Erik Oland, Sharon Crowther and Jamie Crooks all of whom are voice majors in Mt. A.'s Faculty of Music. Saturday night is, in a sense, a double-bill since the production itself is followed by the awards ceremony when adjudicator Robert More will present the various Festival awards including Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Production. The major portion of

the evening, however, will be given to the production of *Luc*, a Theatre of the Absurd comedy by Murray Schisgal, produced by the Riverview Little Theatre. This young Moncton region company has in the last two years been most active. Their most recent production was Neil Simon's *Come Blow Your Horn* in April of 1979 and they have experimented with the Dinner Theatre format, where the evening's entertainment package includes dinner followed by a

performance. The production is directed by Ewan Clark Jr., program host for CBC Moncton's *Afternoon Show*. Tickets for the Festival are \$3.00 per performance (\$2.00 for students and senior citizens) or \$10.00 for a Festival Pass. They are available from Mazucca's on York Street, *Music World* in the Fredericton Mall, *Radioland* in the Regent mall, and at the SUB Information Desk on the UNB Campus.

UNB Workshop Productions

When the New Brunswick Drama Festival opens in the Centre Sainte-Anne Theatre in Fredericton on November 14 next at 8 o'clock the production will be Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* performed by UNB Workshop Productions.

UNB Workshop Productions is an integral part of courses in drama offered by the English Department. The present production is directed by Alvin Shaw well known in Fredericton and the province for his work as Director of over thirty productions for the UNB Drama Society. He will also be remembered for his work as designer and actor in many other productions. This is his fifth assignment as director and designer for UNB Workshop Productions.

One of the most famous plays of the modern theatre, *The Glass Menagerie* is a drama of great tenderness, charm and beauty. Amanda Wingfield is a faded tragic remnant of Southern gentility who lives in poverty in a dingy St. Louis apartment. With her are her son Tom and her daughter Laura. Amanda strives to give meaning and direction to her life and to the lives of her children, though her methods are

ineffective and irritating. Tom, however, is driven nearly to distraction by his mother's nagging, and he seeks escape in alcohol and the unrealistic worlds of the movies. Laura also lives in her illusions. She is crippled and this defect, intensified by her mother's anxiety to see her married, has driven her more and more into herself. The crux of the action comes when Tom invites a young man of his acquaintance to take dinner with the family, Jim, the caller, is a nice ordinary fellow who is at once pounced upon by Amanda as a possible husband for Laura. In spite of her crude and obvious efforts to entrap the young man, he and Laura manage to get along very nicely, and momentarily, Laura is lifted out of herself into a new world. But this crashes when toward the end, Jim explains that he is already engaged. The world of illusion which Amanda and Laura have striven to create in order to make life bearable, collapses about them. Tom, too, at the end of his tether, at last leaves home. The unhappy future which faces Amanda and Laura is apparent. The cast includes Alice Hamilton who will be remembered as an award-winning actress and direc-

tor in New Brunswick high school productions and who has also had extensive experience with TNB's Young Company. More recently she has been involved with *Ye Olde Companie* in their 1979 spring and fall productions.

Joan Spurway has acted in four major productions in the Fredericton region including Fredericton Players Guild, UNB Workshop Productions and TNB.

The male roles are played by Peter Pacey and Reginald Saunders. Reginald Saunders has had considerable experience high school drama and with such UNB Drama Productions as *The Boyfriend*, *Oh What A Lovely War*, and *J.B.* Peter Pacey is a published poet and a teacher of English at Fredericton High School. He has recently been involved with both productions by *Ye Olde Companie*, *Ties That Bind* in April, 1979 and *Duffy's Hotel* this fall.

Curtain time is at 8:00 at the new theatre of the Centre Sainte-Anne (715 Priestman Street). Tickets are on sale at the SUB Information Desk on the UNB campus, Mazucca's on York Street, *Radioland* in the Regent mall and *Music World* in the Fredericton Mall. Also available at the door on the night of the performance.

Theatre St. Thomas

Theatre St. Thomas is presenting *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* by Paul Zindel at this year's New Brunswick Drama League Festival. This award winning play was first produced in 1969 and was later made into a motion picture. A very powerful drama, *Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, brings to the fore three characters, Beatrice, Tillie and Ruth.

Beatrice - "This long street will all the doors shut and everything crowded next to each other ... I start getting afraid the vegetables are going to spoil and nobody's going to buy anything ..."

Tillie - "In front of my eyes one part of the world was becoming another. Atoms exploding... atom after atom, breaking into something new."

Ruth - "... it says that I exaggerate and tell stories and that I'm afraid of death and have nightmares ..."

The part of Beatrice is played by Leslie MacDonald who was very active in her drama society at school in Chatham and since coming to STU has acted in many plays. Leslie directed "Cobbler Stick to Thy Last" in 1978 for Theatre St. Thomas' lunch time Theatre.

Janice Hansen, who plays Tillie, is also from Chatham since coming to University she has been in

several productions. Janice also sings and has been involved in several musical productions.

Janet Surette portrays the part of Ruth. Like Leslie and Janice, Janet has been in many productions at STU and divides her time between Theatre St. Thomas and the SRC.

The play is directed by Ilky Silk, Drama Coordinator for St. Thomas University. She has directed many college productions and has been actor, director and writer for Theatre New Brunswick's Touring Company. Also appearing in the production are Diane Hendrickson and Judy Hallihan.

The play is stage managed by Steven Clark assisted by Ian Betts, Dan Alderman, Donna Barlow and Raj Sandin.

The Effects of Gamma Rays will be performed on Thursday evening, November 15 at 8:00 in the theatre of the Centre Sainte-Anne, at 715 Priestman Street. Admission is \$3.00 for Adults and \$2.00 for Students and Senior Citizens. A Festival pass is \$10.00. Tickets are available at Mazucca's on York Street, *Radioland* in the Regent Mall, *Music World* in the Fredericton Mall and the SUB Information Desk on UNB campus, or at the door on the night of performance.

Festival Offers Workshop

The 1979 New Brunswick Drama League Festival being held November 14 through 17 in Fredericton in the new theatre of

the Centre Saunte-Anne not only offers members of the four companies a chance to compete with each other but also the chance to learn more about the theatre. For three of the four days of the Festival workshops in speech and acting will be conducted for members of the competing groups. The Acting Workshop is conducted by Paul Hannah, well known to Fredericton theatre goes for his work with Theatre New Brunswick from 1973 to 1979. Currently, Mr. Hannah is the Assistant Administrator of the Theatre Department in the National Art Centre in Ottawa. In addition to his acting credits and directing ten production for TNB's Young Company, Mr. Hannah has also written five plays which were performed by the Young Company both on school tours and at the Kings Landing Summer Theatre. In addition, he has conducted

numerous creative drama and acting workshops in New Brunswick schools and was instructor of drama at UNB in 1977-78.

Running concurrently with the Acting Workshop will be one in Speech conducted by Una Way who has recently published a book entitled *Speak Up, I Can't Hear You*, the result of her years of work in drama and speech. Mrs. Way has performed with the Ottawa Little Theatre Group, been a member of the Neptune Theatre in Halifax, and has directed and adjudicated many times. She is, however, perhaps best known for her work in speech, having been a lecturer in the Theatre Department of Dalhousie University and in Drama and Speech at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. Members of the casts of the competing companies will certainly have an enriching three days during the Festival.

Adjudicator's Choice

During the 1979 New Brunswick Drama League Festival held on November 14 through 17 in the new theatre of the Centre Sainte-Anne, the adjudication of the plays will be done by Mr. Robert Gordon More of Toronto. The awards to be presented by the adjudicator are those traditionally associated with the competitive

Festival sponsored by the New Brunswick Drama League. The acting awards include one for the Best Supporting Actress and Best Supporting Actor, as well as trophies for the Best Actress and Best Actor. In addition, awards are made for the Best Visual Production, the Best Director and the Best Overall Production.

New Brunswick Drama Festival Playbill

Nov 14	UNB Drama Workshop presents Tennessee Williams <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>
Nov 15	Theatre St. Thomas presents Paul Zindel <i>Effects of Gamma Rays</i>
Nov 16	Mt. Allison Windsor Players presents Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt <i>The Fantasticks</i>
Nov 17	Riverview Little Theatre presents Murray Schisgal <i>Luv</i>

TICKETS

ADMISSION: Adults \$3 / Students & Seniors \$2. / Festival Pass \$10

AVAILABLE AT: Mazucca's, York Street, SUB... UNB Campus
Music World, F'ton Mall Radioland, Regent Mall & at the Door
Centre Sainte-Anne 715 Priestman Street

All Performances begin at 8 pm sharp