

Second City performs at Playhouse

by COLIN CADOGAN
Brunswickan Staff

Canada's number one improvisational comedy troupe performed at the Playhouse this past Wednesday. This zany group of performers included Frank McAnulty, Gary Jones, Leanna McLennan, Scott Thomson, Deborah Theaker, Ron Thompson, and Musical Director, Greg Morrison.

Their new show *50/50, The Year We got Even* is a comedy revue filled with skits, songs and satire. The Second City troupe, from its early struggles in Chicago in the late 50's has grown and flourished to become North America's most famous comedy company.

The Canadian troupe, which opened in Toronto in 1973 featured the talents of the now famous comedy stars: Dan Akroyd, John Candy, Eugene Levy, Gilda Radner, Martin Short and Rick Moranis & Dave Thomas who made famous "Bob & Doug MacKenzie".

Besides the Second City Touring company, there is a resident company at the Old Firehall in Toronto and still another that is familiar to television viewers from the Second City TV productions on

the Global Network.

The travelling troupe performed skits from the full gamut of the Second City clubs history (It will have been in operation for 25 years as of December 15).

They used a very uncluttered stage during the performance as they only used a few props which served to make their repertoire more flexible and allowed the audience to fill in the gaps for themselves.

Many of the older skits the troupe performed were exceptionally funny, including the Hatfield Dancers and the short thirty second skits advertising

such basic things as shoes. However, some of the skits were simply unfunny and boring though the short duration of these made them easier to take.

The best parts of the show involved the audience in some of the improvisational skits. For instance, one of the skits involved people from the audience yelling out emotions for the players to portray, and was screamingly funny.

In this writer's opinion most entertaining — hardly surprising considering improv has always been Second City's forte.



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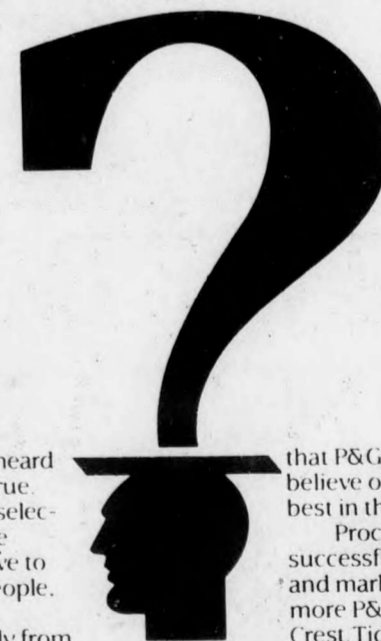
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