

## The Reviewer Reviewed

# "Didn't Get It"

Yet another short play in one act

by Corey Scott

Scene opens: Shabby kitchen of a shabby student apartment. Scattered about are boxes, books, old news papers, laundry and luggage. Trying to make some sense of this is the PACKER, a non-descript sort who fancies himself a casual reviewer of the arts. He is known domestically as the house skeptic, and is today moving out. As communal appliances and furniture are gradually uncovered and sorted from the PACKER's own stuff, a kitchen table emerges from the centre of the room. BRIAN enters unannounced and plunks himself at the only available chair. He is equally non-descript (though chubbier, a bit more bald and votes NDP). From the chaos, he locates last week's issue of the BRUNS (March 27, 1992), finds a legible article with neat illustrations (p14) and begins.

BRIAN: Did you read this review of the Sarah McLachlan concert?

PACKER: Nah. I don't read Bruns reviews. (continues packing)

BRIAN: But I thought you saw the show.

PACKER: I did.

BRIAN: Was it good?

PACKER: Yeah. I had a great time. We went back stage afterwards and met her.

BRIAN: No way! You met Sarah McLachlan? Amazing. (long pause) Isn't she gorgeous?!

PACKER: (short but definite pause) Nice girl.

PACKER continues packing business while Brian indulges in the review - is gradual look of confusion turning to one of humorous frustration.

BRIAN: Help me out here.

PACKER: Help you out!?! (dropping an obviously heavy box...)

BRIAN: (reading aloud) "Stephen Fearing's hands moved rapidly up and down the strings, playing polyphony that would..."

PACKER and BRIAN: (together) POLYPHONY?!

BRIAN: So what is she trying to say?

PACKER: (approaches slowly, placing consoling hands on BRIAN's shoulder and gives the diagnosis) Stephen Fearing outplayed, outsang, and outpersonalitied Sarah.

PACKER turns and resumes packing.

BRIAN: "Outpersonalitied"?

PACKER: No stage presence.

BRIAN: Huh? (still puzzled)

PACKER: Well, you know.

BRIAN: (In quick and fashionable political correctness) Now that's SEXIST!! How can you....?! That's not...!!

BRIAN sputters a diatribe of cliches, but never finishes a sentence

PACKER: (Backing off, hands in the air) I never said a word.

BRIAN: (fumes a bit, cools off, then concedes almost inaudibly to himself...) She is kinda hot.

PACKER: Huh?

BRIAN: Nevermind.

PACKER: Well...(goes back to packing business)

BRIAN: But "VOX" must have been good, eh? And "Path of Thorns"? I kinda like those tunes.

PACKER: Yeah, they were good. (Pauses...) Actually though, the highlight for me had to be when the lowered this eleven-inch Stonehenge block on to the stage - like in "Spinal Tap", you know? (Smiling for the first time...) That was hilarious! O Of course most of the groupies in the front row didn't get it.

After searching review for Spinal Tap reference, BRIAN looks up with visible disappointment.

BRIAN and PACKER: (polyphonically) Didn't get it!!

PACKER: "First experience with mainline rock."

BRIAN: Huh?

PACKER: Nevermind..Are those your socks?

PACKER throws laundry into box with Kraft Dinner, a couple of Moosehead and rather hastened disregard.

BRIAN: You were telling me Friday about that chick who did backup and played all the instruments?

PACKER: What's that?

BRIAN: The back up vocalist. You thought she sang quite well?

PACKER: Oh, yeah. She sang perfect harmonies, played violin, mandolin, piano and guitar, and danced like a fox! Man, she was smokin'! What's her name again? Kim something?

BRIAN searches a bit and looks up

BRIAN and PACKER: (even more polyphonically) Didn't get it!

The PACKER has his things pretty much in order now and is prepared to go. BRIAN offers the review as packing paper.

BRIAN: But still, she definitely has an amazing voice don't you think?

PACKER: Who's that?

BRIAN: (in resignation) Sarah McLachlan!

PACKER: Oh, for sure. (In mock poetic) "Multi-octave, trained yet spontaneous, sultry to swift in flight...One of God's nearly-perfect artistic creations."

BRIAN: Huh?

PACKER: Don't let it come between us, Bri, but do you read Bruns reviews?

Exiting with BRIAN and armload of belongings, we see "Wild T and the Spirit" emblazoned on the back of his shirt.

LIGHTS OUT TO "PURPLE HAZE"

END

P.S. My fairy godmother tells me there are two kinds of reviewers. One gets a creative and entertaining review out of a not so creative and entertaining event.

(Good one, Chris.)



Sheldon Sheep Says  
"Always wear clean underwear, just in case you are in an accident."

LOOKS  
AWFUL  
FAMILIAR...



Sheldon Sheep Says  
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# Happenings

The UNB Art Centre is pleased to present a collection of enchanting works by well-known Acadian folk artist Leo B. LeBlanc. Leo has received national acclaim as a native painter and his work is now part of Canada's heritage. The exhibition opens April 5, 1992 with an opening address by guest curator Tom Smart of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, and runs through May 3, 1992.

The UNB Bicentennial Choir presents its seventh annual Concert for Spring this Monday, April 6, at 8pm at Wilnot United Church. The varied program includes madrigals, anthems by Hayden and Rutter, Thompson's "Choose Something Like A Star," spirituals and folk arrangements. Special guest Madeline Arel on flute will join in on several of the choir selections, and will join director/guitarist Steven Peacock in duets, by Carulli and Ibert. And choir member Marcia Hullmeline, playing alto recorder, will add a touch of the Renaissance to the program. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

The UNB/STU Creative Arts Committee presents The Duo Pach in concert at Memorial Hall this Sunday, April 5th, 1992 at 8pm. This is the final concert in the 91-92 season, and features music by J.S. Bach, Handel, Brahms, Debussy, Chopin, Wienawski and Saint Saens. Admission is \$12/adult, \$10/senior and \$4/student.

Six professional artists, Rick Burns, Toby Graser, Phillip Iverson, L. Robichaud, Bex Thornton and Anna Wagner-Ott are collaborating and have formed a group called ARTWHYS-92. Their work will be exhibited in the windows of the Royal Trust building at the corner of King and York for the month of April. Each artist will be represented by one work. The group plans to follow this initial exhibit with successive displays in the next few months.

## LAST CHANCE FOR LIVE THEATRE, KIDS

Show Stoppard Productions presents Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, part tragedy, part travesty, and it rapidly becomes a death-trap as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern stumble blindly towards eternity. Do not miss this opportunity Tuesday and Wednesday, April 7 and 8, at Memorial Hall at 8pm. Admission is \$3 per person, with an open dress rehearsal free of charge on Monday, April 6. Please contact Catonia Whalen or Rick Spacek at 453-4676 for information.

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