

Keith Carradine turns art forger in *The Moderns*

The Moderns: Stylish cinema

The Moderns
Cineplex Odeon

review by Mike Spindloe

The *Moderns* is a film in which stylishness is everywhere but substance is rarely sacrificed. Director Alan Rudolph has taken the setting of Paris in the 1920's, a good story and a sumptuous collection of modern art and created a lush tapestry of a movie which evokes the atmosphere of Paris as well as or better than *Round Midnight* did a couple of years ago.

Nick Hart is an expatriate American painter living in the age of the Lost Generation, and indeed the film is populated by names like Hemingway, Stein and Toklas. Despite his enormous talent, Hart sells paintings at the rate of one every three years, so he depends on his job drawing caricatures for his friend Oiseau's gossip column for sustenance.

Hart's life is just about to get extremely complicated as the movie begins. Oiseau wants him to move to Hollywood, the rich and sleazy Nathalie de Ville wants him to forge paintings for her so she can cheat her husband, and Hart's wife Rachel turns up married to Bertram Stone, a self-made millionaire, aspiring art lover and part-time thug.

Keith Carradine turns in a career performance as Hart, who is an immensely likeable character, although he looks a little too prosperous to be as broke as he's supposed to be. But, as someone else observes, there's nothing wrong with being broke in Paris. Hart has remained on the fringes of the thriving Paris art scene but still manages to spend a lot of time sitting around in trendy cafes, running into the

likes of Maurice Ravel in the washroom and so forth.

Gertrude Stein (Elsa Raven) is portrayed as a stuffy old dowager who informs Hart that "American painters are 26 this year" (Hart is 33). Ernest Hemingway keeps popping up, seemingly in every bar that Hart is in, making sagacious but alcohol-soaked comments. Kevin J. O'Connor, however, seems miscast (at least physically) in this role.

John Lone as Stone is a credible villain, putting on a veneer of gentility that quickly dissipates when he realizes that Hart is after his, or rather their, wife. He challenges Hart to a duel but accepts the compromise of a three round boxing match at the American gym, which he wins by cheating.

Like most of the characters in *The Moderns*, Stone is fully realized. He, like everyone else, is confronted with a choice between art and artifice. He settles for the latter, yet yearns for the former and seems at heart to know he is failing.

At the heart of the story stand three paintings, one each by Cezanne, Matisse, and Modigliani. These are copied by Hart, and many of the crucial events of the plot revolve around them. To Stone they are merely possessions, to de Ville they are a source of freedom and to Hart, who is reluctant to copy them, they are art.

What saves all of this from becoming a soap opera is the enveloping stylishness of the whole affair and some unpredictable and humorous turns of the plot. This also helps to compensate for an occasionally slow pace, which seems at odds with the time and place.

The character of Oiseau looks to Hollywood as the place to be in the future. In *The Moderns*, Hollywood lives up to Oiseau's prophecy by producing a film worthy of the art.

Entertainment Digest

Prose Reading

The grand old man of Canadian literature, Robertson Davies, will give a reading from his latest novel, *Lyre of Orpheus*, on Thursday, September 15, at 12:30 pm in the Tory Lecture Theatre 11. *Lyre of Orpheus* completes the trilogy which already includes *Rebel Angels* and *What's Bred in the Bone*. For those unable to attend the first reading, Davies will also give a reading at the Princess Theatre at 4:30 on the same day. Watch for an interview with Davies in *The Gateway* next Tuesday.

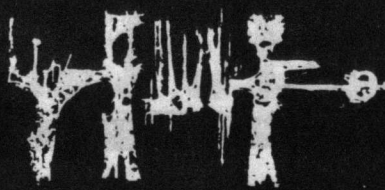
Edmonton Jazz Society

The Edmonton Jazz Society returns to action at the Yardbird Suite (103 St. and

86 Ave.) with two shows by singer Mark Murphy, backed by the Tom Banks trio, this Wednesday and Thursday. Admission is \$9 for members and \$12 for guests. Doors open at 8:00 pm and the shows start at 9:00 pm as usual. 1988 memberships are now half price.

Alberta Playwright's Network

The Alberta Playwright's Network is holding a Playwright's Retreat at the Gladstone Guest Ranch near Pincher Creek on the weekend of October 28-31. Registration information can be obtained from P.O. Box 475, 918 16 Avenue NW, Calgary, T2M 0K3, or telephone (403) 289-1474.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Clubs Commissioner

- Represents the interest of Students' Union registered clubs on Students' Council.
 - Assists the Vice-President Internal Affairs in maintaining an ongoing relationship with Students' Union registered clubs.
 - Promotes cooperation and coordination among student clubs and organizations, and assists them in the preparation of budgets for requests of financial assistance to the Students' Union.
 - Approves the chartering and registration of clubs with the Students' Union in accordance with Bylaw 1100.
 - Serves as a member of the Administration Board, the Building Services Board, Students' Council.
 - Acts as co-chairperson of the Clubs Council.
- SALARY: \$600/month

Chief Returning Officer

- RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- Performs the duties normally required by a Chief Returning Officer (staff recruitment and hiring, organization of polls, oversees counting procedures, etc.)
 - Conducts elections in accordance with Bylaw 300 and 350 for such election or referendum as designated by Students' Council.
 - Act as arbitrator in any dispute arising during the course of an election/referendum.
- QUALIFICATIONS:**
- Must possess excellent organizational and administrative skills.
 - Familiarity with previous Students' Union elections a definite asset.
- SALARY: \$500 plus according to scheduling established October 1984.

Recording Secretary

- RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- Attend all meetings of Students' Council and take accurate minutes of same.
 - Must be conversant with Roberts' Rules of Order.
- REMUNERATION: \$45 per meeting

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There is more to the University than textbooks . . .

STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board

- Alternate Members required.
 - The D.I.E. Board:
 1. Acts as administrative tribunal for Students' Union Constitution and Bylaws
 2. Has "court-like" powers
 3. Investigates and tries alleged breaches of discipline
 4. Interprets Students' Union Constitution and Bylaws
- Applicants must be in their second or further year of studies.
Term of Office: Immediately to 30 May 1989

EUGENE L. BRODY FUNDING BOARD

- requires 1 student-at-large member
- The Brody Board:
 - Determines Students' Union financial donations to various charitable or relief projects from the Eugene Brody Fund.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

- requires 2 student-at-large members
- The External Affairs Board:
 - Creates and coordinates projects on campus concerning various issues of interest and concern.
 - Makes recommendations to Students' Council on political issues.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORT COMMISSION

- requires 2 student-at-large members
- The Housing and Transport Commission:
 - Makes policy recommendations to Students' Council concerning housing and transportation concerns.
 - Is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a long-range plan of housing and transportation for the students at the U of A by the Students' Union.

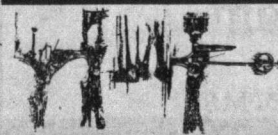
- Works with various student residences on issues of concern.
- Investigates development and zoning plans for the University area.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- requires 2 student-at-large members
- Selects the Students' Union Directors of service areas and the Commissioners
- Selects the Speaker of Students' Council
- Selects the members of other Students' Union boards and committees.

BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- requires 2 student-at-large members
- The Bylaws Committee:
 - Drafts new Bylaws and amends existing Bylaws and Constitution
 - Makes recommendations to Students' Council concerning Constitution amendments



TERM OF OFFICE: 1 OCTOBER 1988 to 30 APRIL 1989 (unless otherwise noted)
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: Wednesday, 21 SEPTEMBER, 4:00 p.m.
For Applications and Information, contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, Room 259, Students' Union Building (SUB), 432-4236.