

## Music

Both new commissioned work of faculty members and the festive jazz playing of the Time Warp Trio will be featured in the York music department's twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations. While the music department began in 1970 (making this their fifteenth anniversary) chairman McKay hopes that performance celebrations of this magnitude "will become an ongoing process...a series of events involving alumni in both social and professional capacities." McKay sees the event as a viable way of "repairing the gap in the bridge between alumni and students." For example, members of the jazz department of music are invited and encouraged to join in the jamming session which will follow the Time Warp Trio's performance.

Opening the celebration will be four world premieres of works by York faculty members at McLaughlin Hall (home-base of the music department), on Wednesday October 9 at 12:30 p.m. The program consists of Phillip Werren's "Mini-maxiatures," James Tenney's "Water on the Mountain...Fire in Heaven," Casey Sokol's "Species," and Dave Mott's "I...the boogie woogie." The line-up also includes David Lidov's "Quartette," which has been postponed because of accidents recently befalling the violinist and pianist of the piece. The remaining works are as instrumentally varied as their titles, and "Water on the Mountain...Fire in Heaven" features six electric guitars which will be played by outside university "friends," some of whom are alumni. The other pieces will be performed by faculty members James McKay, Patricia Wait, Casey Sokol, Dale Innes, and Margaret Gibbs. McKay notes that faculty-composed pieces are "a century-old tradition"; while the works are new, the tradition lives on.

The music of Bach, Saint-Saens, and Stravinsky follow the faculty performance on October 9, at 4:00 p.m. Returning alumni performers for this segment of the festival include Barbara Ackerman, a 1974 graduate, presently flautist with the National Ballet Orchestra and the contemporary ensemble Array Music in Toronto, Judith Kay (1978 graduate), principal french horn player with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Orchestra, Ann Massicotte (1985), performer with the Jeunesse Musicale, and Christian Sharpe (1984), principal bassoonist with the Toronto Community Orchestra.

The evening closes with a bash (and perhaps a few well-timed clashes) by the Time Warp Trio at 6:00 p.m. The trio of jazz musicians, Alan Henderson, (a York MFA graduate), Barry Elmes (York BFA graduate and part-time teacher) and Bob Brough are well known through their two recordings and many Toronto jazz club shows. As jazz and drink often complement each other, there will be a cash bar for this event, and ample opportunity for other musicians to actively participate in the festivities with their own improvisations.

On November 17 the Toronto Community Orchestra will perform a concert at the Church of the Holy Trinity (behind the Eaton Centre) at 8:00 p.m. The concert will be directed by James McKay, and will highlight Hungarian pianist Adam Fellegi (an artist-in-residence at York), who will be the soloist in Peter Ware's "Aishiihik" Concerto which was specially commissioned for the anniversary. Also featured is Louis Applebaum's *Celebration York*, commissioned for the inauguration of York president Harry Arthurs. Liszt's *Hungarian Fantasy* and Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony* are also on the program. Admission is \$6.00 for general public and \$4.00 for students and seniors.

What makes the music department's celebration unique is that most of the pieces being performed were composed specifically for the

works reflects the drive for innovation that the music department strives for. CJRT-FM will be taping the celebration for future broadcast.

## Visual Arts

Prepare to be encompassed. In two weeks time York University will be teeming with work by artists who have graduated from the Visual Arts MFA program. Pouring out of every gallery on campus and soaring over heads in outdoor installations, the work is part of "RE:UNION," an exhibition organized by the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU). The event runs from October 15 to November 15 and the opening, which takes place on the 15th at 6 p.m. will be followed by a presentation by alumna Kathy Browning of five multi-media performance pieces in Atkinson at 8:30 p.m.

Initially "RE:UNION" was a project conceived and developed over the past two years in the MFA program under Hugh LeRoy and was planned for 1986. In the spring of 1985, however, the project was taken over by AGYU. The aim of "RE:UNION" is to "show the impact of the MFA program" on the world of art today. It is a show that "stands on its own outside of the program" and the width and breadth of the exhibition seems to see this statement through. Pieces include painting, drawing, sculpture, installations, conceptual art, photography, reliefs, prints and performances.

39 alumni are represented in the exhibition, chosen out of a total estimate of 97 graduates. McLuhan described the choosing process as "exhaustive," the main consideration being whether or not the graduate was a practicing professional artist, continuing to exhibit. Because the exhibition is a collection of recent work the strength of each artist's current work was of prime importance. McLuhan pointed out that some of the articles under consideration are going through transitional stages in their careers, seeking new directions that were not as yet fully realized in their work. McLuhan cited one artist as an example who initially had worked on drawing but who is now working in the medium of video. Unfortunately the movement and growth in these artists' work makes them inaccessible to the general public at this point in time.

Joe Green, former Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, once described the philosophy of the MFA Visual Arts program as a decision *not* to have a philosophy. "RE:UNION" promises to reflect this choice in a dynamic collection that ranges from "cool formalism to neo-expressionism."



Harriet says: The Fine Arts 25th anniversary celebrations will be amooosing to the nth degree—an udder delight!



In 1968, 75 'upperclassmen' initiated the idea of a Fine Arts program for York. The formation of theatre, film and visual arts programs were rapidly followed by dance and music. These soon became departments and the Faculty of Fine Arts now boasts over 1500 undergraduates as well as graduate programs in all departments. Today the Faculty of Fine Arts is working to bring the different disciplines together, for artists to experience other artists, in interdisciplinary courses, multi-media performances and special projects. The Faculty is celebrating the university's birthday in style as alumni return and faculty to join in a series of 'birthday' events. Department previews by Paulette Peirol and Rebecca Cann.

## Dance

York's dance department has undergone subtle yet innovative changes in its sixteen year history. In earlier years, students could choose between traditional balletic focus and modern dance, yet now "ballet dancers must be conversant in modern dance and choreography," states Keith Urban, chairman of the department: "the modern world of dance demands more flexibility." Appropriately, York's dance department's 25th anniversary celebration on October 8 will feature modern works by alumni members Patricia Frazer, Monica George, Fanny Gorayeb, and Juan Antonio.

Antonio is the artist-in-residence of the dance department for the next two years. 1985 marks the first of a series of dance artists-in-residence at York. Antonio is co-founder of the Louis Falco Dance Company, which he worked with extensively for 16 years. The dance department will aim to recruit artists-in-residence from people "fresh in the field," says Urban.

Tuesday's noon-hour presentation at Burton Auditorium is free and features York dance students and alumni performing alumni works. Patricia Frazer, who teaches at York, is responsible for "Last Waltz," a work she choreographed last summer at the Banff School of Fine Arts. This is the Toronto premiere of "Last Waltz" which utilizes the talents of nineteen York dance students.

"Legacy," choreographed by New York freelance teacher Monica George, is made for five dancers. George herself, as well as fellow alumna Fanny Gorayeb and members of Antonio's "Louis Falco" company will perform in this work. Following "Legacy" is Juan Antonio's "Tango d'Octobre," a duet with dancers Gorayeb and George. The dance department will also host two performances on November 8th and 9th.

Keith Urban says that selection of dance alumni for the celebration was "based on funds and who was available." Urban cites Christopher Howes, a choreographer at Toronto Dance Theatre, and Tassy Teekman, freelance choreographer in Montreal, as examples of sought after alumni who unfortunately weren't available for the event.

An important recent development in the dance department is plans for a dance minor programme. This would enable Faculty of Arts students to pursue a dance minor degree, although they would have to audition for the program along with Fine Arts majors. The program has been approved by the Fine Arts department and awaits Senate approval. Urban states that York's dance department caters to "a spe-

cial kind of student, the 'artistic-scholar' who is interested in intellectual as well as artistic learning." The alumni performance should reflect the well-rounded education that the dance department promotes.

## Theatre

Discoveries are being made in York's theatre department as it prepares to celebrate the university's 25th anniversary. "The Best of York" will include performances and readings by theatre alumni, faculty and graduate students in Burton Auditorium on Monday, October 7th at 8 p.m.

Preparations for the event are "forcing us to look back at what we've done, where we are and where we are going" according to department chairman Ron Singer. "The Best of York" has brought about the realization that many of York's theatre alumni are taking "innovative steps in leading exploration in the theatre," Singer said. Singer described leadership as being the overwhelming characteristic in the work of graduates as they seek "active and productive roles" in Canadian theatre. "We can draw a lot of really important conclusions which can help us in the future," Singer said.

The theatre department had its start in 1968 as the first Dean of Fine Arts Joe Green began to develop curriculum for what was at the time a theatre 'program.' Green described the first years as "more unified or less developed, depending on which way you look at it." Singer, who came to York in 1972 described the theatre department as a "very committed group of professionals from downtown dedicated to training young professionals for the theatre."

Many of these professionals will be making an appearance on Monday night in "The Best of York." Barbara Budd, an actress who has worked for Theatre Plus, Toronto Workshop Productions and spent six seasons at the Stratford Festival, and who is currently a news announcer for CBC Radio will act as master of ceremonies for the evening. Sky Gilbert, co-founder of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre will read from his work. Comic actor Avery Saltzman, currently playing the part of Chico Marx in the Variety Dinner Theatre's *A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine*, will perform with Susan Hendley in work by York grad Stephen Witkens. Other alumni include composer/musical director Glenn Morley, actor Dan Lett who has worked at the Shaw Festival for the past five years, actress Djanet Sears who is currently playing in Act IV's *Wuthering Heights*, choreographer and actor Taras Shipowick, and award-winning country and western singer Kelita Haverland who is renowned for her zany portraits of Nashville characters. An appearance

by Rosemary Dunsmore, one of Canada's leading actresses, is also hoped for but not yet confirmed.

"The Best of York" will also include readings from the work of York authors Eli Mandel, Irving Layton and Frank Davey. The line-up for the evening is an outstanding collection of Canadian theatre talent and the perspective it affords of the history of the York theatre department is unique.

## Film/Video

Just over a year ago, York's Film Department changed its name to the Film and Video Department, a move that reflects the technological and artistic developments which the department has strived to keep pace with in its 16-year history. The change in name also reflects the growing success of the department. Now with doubled enrolment applications (while actual enrolment has only "crept"), and high employment records of graduates to its credit, it will be celebrating all its achievements on October 4 at the Nat Taylor Cinema.

The celebration is in conjunction with York's 25th anniversary, and includes a reception at the Art Gallery of York University after the first screening at 4:00 p.m. There will also be a repeat screening at 7:00 p.m. the same evening.

Opening the screenings will be *Neon: An Electric Memoir*, by alumnus Rudy Buttignol, an independent filmmaker. *Neon* features its namesake—neon—as the topic of this documentary/drama. Canadian actress Jackie Burroughs stars in the film, which runs for half an hour.

*Young and just beginning—Pierre* by Kathryn Hope, a contemporary graduate of Buttignol and also a York faculty member, has won three awards since its inception in 1977. Honors include the Gold Plaque from the 1978 Chicago International Film Festival, Best Film Award of the 1979 Children's Film Festival Canada, and the Diploma D'Honneur from the 1979 MIFED International Film Festival. *Young and just beginning* was produced for CBC and is a documentary centring upon a male dancer (presumably "Pierre") at the National Ballet School in Toronto. Hope is well known for her innovative work in 35mm and video.

The screening culminates with Peter Weyman's documentary *The Leahys: Music most of all*. Weyman is an MFA graduate and recipient of an Oscar for the Best Foreign Student Film. *The Leahys*, which won him the mini-Oscar, was produced for his Master's thesis in 1983. It is about a rural Ontario family's struggles to gain recognition as country music performers. Weyman is currently working on another documentary about prominent Canadian publisher Jack McClelland.

Video has become an integral tool of many filmmakers worldwide. Ken Dancynger, chairman of the Film and Video Department, notes that "the film industry is no longer only film... but a reflection of modern technology." York film student are allowed to choose separate streams of video or film study from their third year onward. However, their background skills must include both technological forms.

Dancynger explains that film has become a booming industry in Toronto, especially since many American films are being shot and produced here. Film graduates, therefore, are finding employment opportunities abundant. The industry is also recently ushering in many female filmmakers. Dancynger notes that many graduate students "are streamed into film jobs even before they graduate."

While the 1960 Watershed Year of Film Production Festival looks back on cinema which existed before the film department itself (see *Excalibur's Calendar* for weekly listings), the October 4th celebration gives viewers a glimpse into York's film future.