

Free Press Youth Page

# Student reviews Touch of the Poet

By Cathy Hinton  
Field trip to St. Lawrence Centre to see A Touch of the Poet by Eugene O'Neill.

As we took our seats, very close to the stage, we could see the beautiful setting of a New England tavern, set for July 27, 1828. It was cheerful and friendly looking, with dark tables and chairs set on a wooden floor, an old-fashioned writing desk with a high stool in front of it, a fireplace and some wooden cupboards, filled with wine glasses, and a mirror in one corner.

The three major characters, the Melody family, appeared in the first two acts. Cornelius, the father, was a tall, distinguished looking "gentleman" of America, but formerly from a poor Irish family. There was "a touch of the poet" in him as he faced the mirror and recalled his brave past, of wars and loves in Spain, through Byron's poetry, and then drank to the richness of the future. The part was played by Edward Binsh, who was excellent.

**Wife strong**

Nora, the wife, was an old tired-looking woman. She said to her daughter "Love is giving all of yourself to someone" and she certainly did give to her husband. She gave her body through working in the tavern and her soul through living with his drinking and his arguing. She appeared weak, during the first

few acts, but towards the end, we saw her as a woman who kept her family together, and who still loved her husband.

Sara, the daughter, was a pretty girl, in love with a rich Yankee who was resting at their inn. Her past life was a hard one too, as she was waitress and financier of the place. Throughout the play, she scorned her father and his dreams, but also at times, showed great concern for him.

**Central conflict**

One of the central conflicts was between Sara and Simon's (Yankee) mother, Deborah, a gracious but strange woman. She questioned the marriage of her son to Sara because of their social differences, and even warned her that Simon could make life very hard for her, but in the end, it was Sara who was to make that final choice. Another central conflict was between Cornelius and the alien land, in which he now lived. He was ashamed of his poor past, in Ireland and sought to find that great "American dream" of richness and happiness, but after years of being the hero of his own myth, he was defeated by reality.

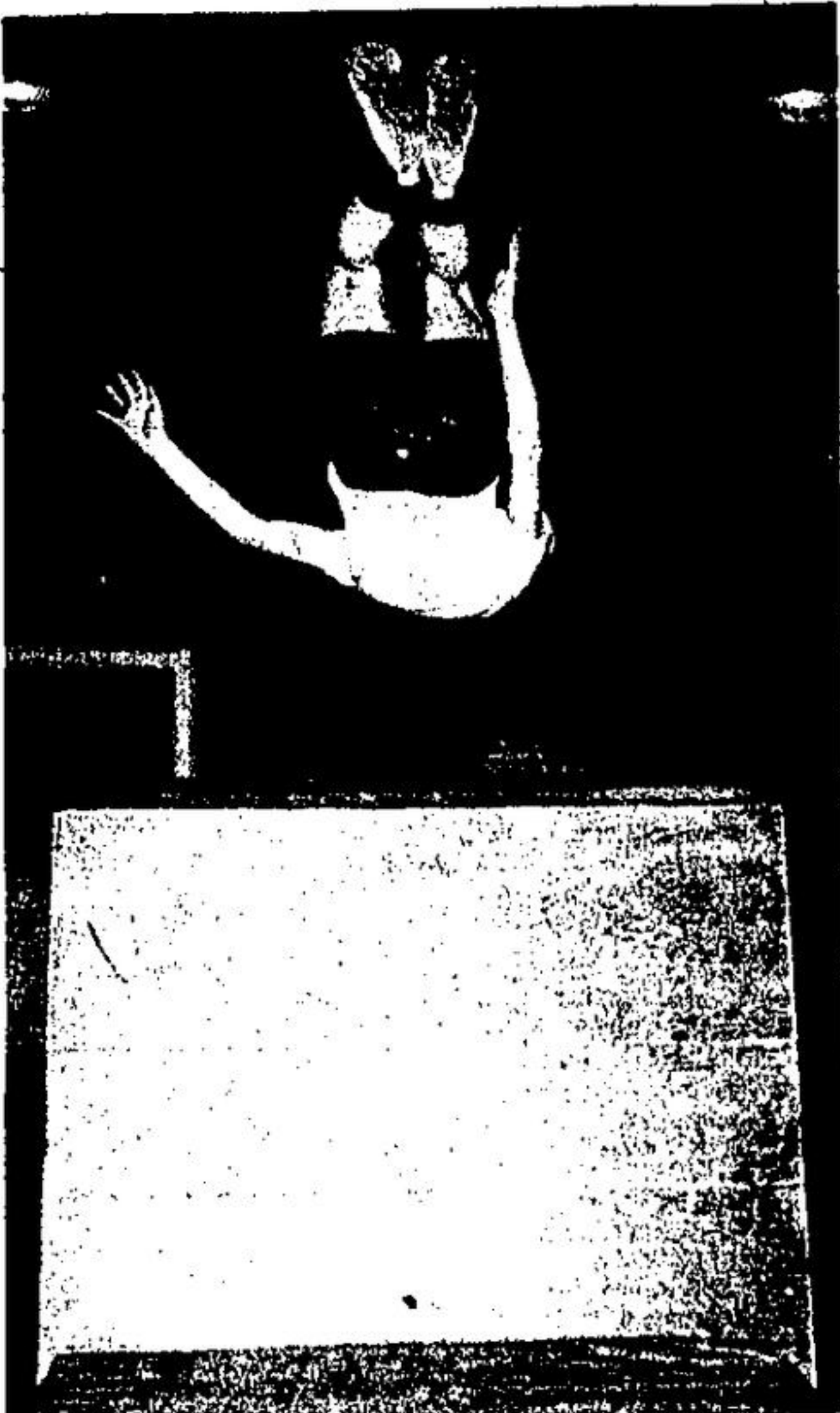
**Sense of gloom**

The major theme centred around the author's tragic family and life. From his readings of Greek tragedies, Ibsen and Strindberg, and from his insight into character, he showed in A Touch of the Poet as in his other works, a sense of pessimism for the future, a sense of gloom.

I thought the play was worth while seeing. The actors were very good and the setting and costumes were interesting. But I must have a touch of the poet in me, as I don't really enjoy O'Neill's reality.

**KEYS MADE WHILE YOU WAIT**

Hinton's 5c-\$1 Store



UP AND OVER GOES young Tim Taylor, one of Acton's acrobats. Tim performed a mid-air somersault for the small



crowd at the open house held at the Y.M.C.A. last Wednesday night in conjunction with Y week. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

## Y.M.C.A. News and Happenings

GLORIA BROWNE  
Y.M.C.A.  
Program Co-ordinator



Y week didn't go off with a bang—neither did it whimper, just a soft sigh.

The kids enjoyed it, the leaders enjoyed it, but where were the parents? We had hoped that at least this once the parents would have come with their children instead of only sending them.

The mothers of the girls in the 3-F club came Saturday morning to their open house but we didn't get to meet any of the parents of the boys in the youth club.

The Y's Menettes had an almost average turn-out of patrons for their book sale on Saturday afternoon but had a great many books left over.

**Same faces**

The annual general meeting was attended by the same faces who year round put their shoulder to the wheel and keep the Y operating but none of the voting members who were invited bothered to show any interest.

I have given up trying to understand why. We have worked very hard to establish a craft class for teens and adults. We have three ladies that come. Yet on all sides I hear people moaning there's nothing to do in this town. We want to offer a variety of interesting hobbies plus a pleasant, friendly night out but where do we find friendly, interested people?

We have invested in fine fencing equipment, have an excellent instructor, Ted Newman who feels that fencing is exciting, stimulating and healthful. He would like to share his skills with teenagers and adults if they would only come and join. There will be fencing on Wednesday night this week because Mr. Newman will be out of town on business from the 15th to the 22nd. We sincerely hope that some people will arouse themselves from their mid-winter apathy and come along and participate in the craft and fencing classes. Both will be on Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. this week.

We would like very much to invite new people who have

### Will study old schools

A special committee of the Halton County Board of Education trustees and senior administration will study a dozen schools in Halton County that were built prior to 1937 in an effort to see that they measure up to standards.

Four of the 12 schools are in the west education area, six in the east and two in the north.

**Robert Little**

The two schools in the north are Chapel St. Public School in Georgetown and Robert Little School in Acton.

The committee will report back prior to Sept. 30.

FRED A. HOFFMAN  
Optometrist  
58 St. George's Sq.  
Guelph, Ont.  
Telephone 824-2071

## School diamonds belong to board

Ball diamonds at the Robert Little and M.Z. Bennett schools are under the jurisdiction of the Halton County Board of Education, Acton Parks and Recreation Committee declared Monday night.

The committee decided to explain the situation in a letter of reply to the Acton Minor Baseball Association. The AMBA had

### Report 64 fire calls

A report on the Acton Area Fire Department's 1972 activities was filed with members of Nassagaweya Council last week by council's representative on the fire area committee, Councillor Cal McIntyre and committee member Percy McGillivray.

There were 64 fire calls last year, 39 in the rural area and 25 in town, they told council. Esqueing and Nassagaweya

made a written request to the committee that diamonds be repaired and benches built at both schools.

Councillor Orv Chapman suggested it might be a good idea to have a board representative attend a future parks and recreation meeting to review existing agreements between the two bodies.

### Share the expenses of the brigade

with the town of Acton and the rural areas own one 1958 pumper.

The 1973 budget for equipment will be up \$55 over last year.

Council held a brief discussion on the problems of locating rural homes and it was mentioned many township residents are not able to quote their lot and concession number in an emergency.



FENCING instructor Ted Newman is on the defence in this lesson given last Wednesday night to young Gloria Browne. Fencing was part of the Y.M.C.A. open house. (Photo by D. Gibbons)



**EARLY BIRDS GET... EARLY TAX REBATES. FILE WITH **atc** NOW!**

- Gentlemen farmers
- Businessmen
- Individuals

New tax laws will affect everyone this year, such as capital gains, exemptions etc. So relax and make sure you get maximum deductions by using our experience and up to date knowledge. **atc** will handle all your tax needs confidentially. We service personal, business, farm and corporation tax returns efficiently and accurately.

Salesmen and commissioned employees, do you need expense statements? File with us to your own advantage.

**atc ASSOCIATE TAX CONSULTANTS**

**HOURS**  
Tues.-Thurs. 9-5  
Fridays 9-9  
Saturdays 9-4

**ADDRESS**  
5 Wesleyan St. 877-2217  
& 162 Broadway  
Orangeville, Ont. 941-6241

# A-B SUPERMARKET

9 MILL ST.

ACTON

853-0650

<b>RED BRAND BEEF ONLY</b>	
<b>ROUND STEAK</b>	<b>\$1.35</b> lb.
<b>ROUND STEAK ROAST</b>	
Boneless <b>RUMP ROAST</b>	<b>\$1.39</b> lb.
<b>SIRLOIN TIP ROAST</b>	<b>1.39</b> lb.
Schneider's <b>RED HOTS</b> 1 lb. Pkg.	<b>75c</b>
Schneider's - Smoked <b>PICNIC SHOULDERS</b>	<b>79c</b> lb.

PRICES EFFECTIVE FEB. 14-15-16-17

<b>OLD COUNTRY</b> 24 oz. Pkg. (Save 14c)	
<b>HADDOCK FISH &amp; CHIPS</b>	<b>79c</b>
Aunt Jemima 10-oz. Pkg. (Save 8c)	
<b>WAFFLES</b>	<b>39c</b>
Sunshine 12 oz. Pkg. (Save 10c)	
<b>SALMON STEAKS</b>	<b>\$1.29</b>
Crest Family Size (Save 30c)	
<b>TOOTH PASTE</b>	<b>99c</b>
White Granulated 5-lb. Bag	
<b>SUGAR</b>	<b>69c</b>

Fortune 14 oz. Tins (Save 16c)	<b>FRUIT COCKTAIL</b>	<b>3 FOR 89c</b>
Van Camp 14 oz. Tins (Save 27c)	<b>PORK &amp; BEANS</b>	<b>4 FOR 89c</b>
Lyons Pkg. of 60 (Save 20c)	<b>THE TEA</b>	<b>75c</b>
<b>FRESH PRODUCE DAILY</b>		
P.E.I. 25 lb. bag	<b>POTATOES</b>	<b>\$1.79</b>
U.S. No. 1	<b>LETTUCE</b>	<b>35c</b>
Ont. No. 1 3-lb. bag	<b>CARROTS</b>	<b>29c</b>
Ont. Fancy 5-lb. bag	<b>MacINTOSH APPLES</b>	<b>69c</b>
Del Monte 48 oz. Tins (Save 17c)	<b>Pineapple-Grapfruit DRINK</b>	<b>3 FOR \$1</b>
Aylmer 20 oz. (Save 23c)	<b>CATSUP</b>	<b>2 FOR 79c</b>
Rose 15 oz. Jars (Save 41c)	Sweet Wafer or Bread 'n Butter	<b>PICKLES 3 FOR \$1</b>
<b>FACELLE-ROYALE Pkg. of 333</b>		
	<b>FACIAL TISSUE</b>	<b>3 FOR \$1</b>
Grade 'A'	<b>LARGE EGGS</b>	<b>59c Doz.</b>