

Backstage with Our Town and Dorothy Hunt



As his young admirer's facial expression suggests, Eric Nagler hath charms to soothe the most restless of children. The Toronto-based multi-instrumentalist will entertain two sell-out audiences this Sunday at the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre in the second of three "Super Sundays" events sponsored by the University Women's Club of Georgetown. The first Super Sunday last fall saw the National Tap Dance Company charm local youngsters with "Oliver Button is a Sissy", now seeing Toronto theatre-goers. Coming up April 18 is the Lamppoon Puppettheatre's "Little Blue Hedgehog". (Photo courtesy Prologue)

Eric Nagler visits UWC's Super Sundays

If you were in line early enough to get tickets for the second of three "Super Sundays" arranged by the University Women's Club of Georgetown, this is another weekend to look forward to. Multi-instrumentalist Eric Nagler hits the John Elliott Theatre stage this Sunday for two performances of "Making Music Together", described as a totally enthralling introduction to the simple but rewarding art of making music. Performances at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. sharp (doors open at 1:15 and 3:15) are sold out. Each show consists of 50 minutes of songs, tunes, games and stories through which Mr. Nagler emphasizes for his youthful audiences the idea of music as a form of communication. The audience is invited to imagine what it was like before the media played such a formative role in the way we have fun. Getting together with neighbors and sharing songs and dances was important during a time when people had to provide a lot of their own entertainment.

Mr. Nagler plays banjo, fiddle, guitar, spoons, Jew's-harp and various other instruments. He shares musical energy with the audience by involving them in singing, clapping different rhythms, arranging a song with a beginning and end, giving parts to different individuals or groups while others provide a quiet background. Time is given during and after the performance for people to share their personal traditions and family musical experiences.

"I started playing banjo at 14 - first old timey styles and then Scruggs picking," Mr. Nagler says. "As Bill Keith was developing his melodic style in the early '60s, I picked it up from him at Washington Square in Greenwich Village. In those days I also learned guitar, mandolin and auto-harp. The musician who influenced me most, however, was Alan Block. Every Saturday afternoon we would gather at his sandal shop on West Fourth Street, Manhattan and play old timey tunes and songs one after the other for hours."

Mr. Nagler's publicists point out that it is difficult, in a few sentences, to do justice to the artist's subsequent career as a professional musician. Appearing at numerous folk festivals, founding the Toronto Folklore Centre, instructing "Introduction to Folk Music" at Humber College in Toronto, performing at concerts, children's concerts, on radio shows and recordings, he has been able to utilize his musical ability and expression to the fullest. Mr. Nagler also plays the psaltery, nose flute, dulcimer, bodhran and booz.

Criminal rackets busted

An eight-month probe of complaints to Halton regional police and the anti-rackets branch of the OPP resulted in a total of 32 criminal charges being laid against a Toronto lawyer and four others Jan. 22. An investigation into franchise sales for vending machines which dispense beverages, disposable lighters and cooked pizzas which operated from a Stables Avenue address in Milton found the bankrupt firms had done more than 17 million in business in Canada, England and Australia.

Complaints came from people who had invested in franchises with the firms Direct Beverages, Dominion Lighter Sales Inc., Ideal Pizza Corp. Ltd. and Nadalin Sunny Group International Inc., between December, 1979, and July, 1980.

By MARG EGGLETON
GLT publicist
"The music, the spotlights, the people, the towns. The costumes, the scenery, the make-up, the frowns, ... Nowhere could you have that happy feeling When you are stealing that extra bow. (With apologies to Irving Berlin!)"

No, there's no business like show business. As the song says, everything about it is appealing, and the applause the music in the actors' ears. But what goes on behind the scenes during all the weeks of preparation for a show? And who is backstage during the actual running of the play, making sure everything falls into place so that the actors can "steal that extra bow"?

One such person is Dorothy Hunt, a long-time, hardworking member of Georgetown Little Theatre. Watching her husband, Ron, who is involved in most of GLT's productions, dashing off to rehearsals evenings and weekends, Dorothy figured "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." So that's just what she did, putting her many talents to work for the group in a variety of ways - wardrobe, props, set painting, set dressing, programme, publicity, front of house - Dorothy has done most of the backstage jobs associated with little theatre work.

Now she's once again putting



DOROTHY HUNT (Photo by Gerry Eggleton)

her organizational abilities to work as producer of GLT's next play, Our Town. Never really interested in being in the spotlight herself, Dorothy derives great satisfaction from organizing all the backstage facets of the play. This involves gathering together a production crew, ensuring that they are all doing the work assigned, co-ordinating all the departments, and generally making sure that everything runs smoothly so that the actors can get on stage and "do their thing".

Seeing and enjoying the performance of a play the audience do not always give a thought to those who make it all possible - the backstage workers. Let's not forget that without them there would not be a play to enjoy. GLT invite you to visit Our Town at the John Elliott Theatre on Feb. 26, 27, March 4, 5, 6. For tickets call the box office at 877-5407.

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BINGO EVERY MONDAY

Show time!

A reminder to all holders of "Musical Trillight" tickets: tonight's the night for concert number two. Don't forget that the venue is Acton High School at 8 p.m. The concert, of course, stars Sears and Switzer, presenting their much-acclaimed satirical music revue of modern life. There are still some rush seats available.

Coming to the Gallery: Feb. 5 to 27, The Palette and Pencil Club presents "Art 82". Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 to noon and 2 to 4.

Coming to the John Elliott Theatre: Feb. 6, "Alice in Wonderland" as performed by The Elizabeth Paterson Dance Company. One performance only at 8 p.m. For tickets phone 877-1581.

Continuing at the Georgetown Library until the end of January: Original cartoon sketches by Lynn Johnson on display in the lower library foyer.

Surely one of the above-mentioned activities will tempt some of us out of our self-imposed winter hibernation. Some thoughts on this particular winter:

Winter is a fact of life
We Canadians know
Every year the cold will come.
Every year the snow
Sometimes ice and freezing rain
Sometimes gale force winds
Such is always winter's way
But do they have to come
All on a single day.
-By Pat Hretchka

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"Art and Antique Sale"

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10 am - 5 pm

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STARTS FRIDAY

GHOST STORY

Fri.-Sat.-Sun. 7:05 & 9:05
Mon.-Thurs. 7:30

Wed. 27 Thurs. 28 "Onders" 7:30 p.m.

STARTS FRIDAY

TIME BANDITS

They didn't make him, they stole it!

Fri.-Sat.-Sun. 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. 27 Thurs. 28 "TAPS" 7 p.m. & 9:15 p.m.

HELD OVER 3rd WEEK

BEST PICTURE

One Show Daily 7:30 p.m.

Author hosts AHS seminars

By DIANE CREWE-READ
Author and playwright Rick Salutin visited Acton High School Jan. 14.

He presented seminars to the Creative Writing, Canadian Literature and Grade 9 English classes, recalling his experiences as a university teacher and then a writer. He spoke about New York and how he began his professional writing at the age of 28.

Rick was born in Toronto and still lives there. He's travelled across Canada, but says he likes his home city of Toronto.

In his spare time, Rick enjoys writing for magazines and doing radio and television interviews. Rick has also tried journalism, but says that it's all "gossip". He likes writing fictional stories and therefore he detours around the journalism side of writing.

Rick says he gets a lot of satisfaction out of writing and plans to continue with his writing career.

LEGION BINGO TONIGHT

And Every Wednesday at 7:45 p.m.

CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES GEORGETOWN 3

STARTING FRIDAY

The Boogers

Weekdays: 7:00, 9:15
Sat., Sun.: 4:30, 7:00, 9:15

HELD OVER 3RD GREAT WEEK

Paul Newman & Sally Field
"ABSENCE OF MALICE"

Weekdays: 7:00, 9:20
Sat., Sun.: 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20

HELD OVER 2ND WEEK

BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
New York critics award
Warren Beatty - Diane Keaton in
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Matinee Sat., Sun. at 2 p.m.

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