

Georgian Theatre coordinator — actress, singer

Wendy Hicks has spent her life in the theatre, but her office on the campus of Georgian College is not what you'd expect. As the home base of an actress, singer, comedienne, writer and theatre administrator. There are no framed autographed celebrities, or flashy momentoes.

Instead, Wendy's office is hung with a few flower-drenched homilies about friendship and courtesy. The desk is clean, and a row of very homey-looking plants sits on the windowsill. Aside from a picture of the youngsters from last summer's Gryphon Theatre company, and a signed cartoon of Ivan Rebroff, the walls are dominated by a couple of enormous squared-off calendars. This says a lot about the woman who sits behind the uncluttered desk. "I'm an organizer," she says with a smile that combines dignity and disarming warmth. "I love tiny details." She's been Theatre Coordinator for Georgian

College since 1973, and some of the "tiny details" have been pretty hair-raising - like the night the Irish Rovers darkly threatened to cancel their second performance if something wasn't done about the faulty air conditioning. "My technician Norm Hannon is a life saver," she says. "He managed to find a fan belt at Canadian Tire, which thank heaven, hadn't closed yet." Then there was the time she asked somebody to move a potted plant from the lobby which was packed with patrons neatly funnelled into orderly lines with velvet ropes. "There was a misunderstanding," she moans. "The plant got

moved, and so did the ropes, and we almost had a riot on our hands." As theatre coordinator, Wendy Hicks is responsible for all "front of house" arrangements, as well as bookings. "Already we have bookings into 1977," she says, indicating one of the large calendars. She's also the official greeter for the theatre - a job she takes very seriously. "I represent Georgian College," she says, "and I'm the one person that people that come to our theatre can always relate to." She's at every performance, smiling and welcoming patrons with sincere warmth. ("How good of you to come")

While she looks as cool and elegant as any O'Keefe first-nighter, ("Clothes are part of my job") her mind is constantly ticking over the details (tickets, programs, ushers, reception arrangements) that make an evening at Georgian Theatre a pleasant one. "We want people to come back," she says. "We have a facility here that has everything they need." Once a year, Wendy moves across to the other side of the footlights. Last summer she played Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This summer, she'll be on stage in "Our Wilderness". This adds up to many 18



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dance-a-thon last Friday with action starting at 8 p.m. and going on until 8 a.m. the next morning.

Staff photo

commentator at the CNE in 1967.

Now she's happily settled into what she calls a dream job. "This is a civilized place to work," she says. "All of us here care about each other.

Really, I look forward to coming to work each day. I love what I'm doing."

Sean Mulcahy, Cryphon's director for the past several summers says of Wendy Hicks:

"The woman is marvellous. She's the one that has made our theatre the success it is."

Lucky woman - to love her work, and to be loved for doing it so well.

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Wintario officials this week approved grants totalling \$75,115 for ten projects in Simcoe County.

Hoffman is speaker

Canadian Olympic competitors Abbie Hoffman will be the guest speaker at the Simcoe County general meeting for Women in Sport, Fitness, and Recreation.

Thank you

For the second time school year Ma Maurice and his band "The Northerners" have freely donated their musical talent and time at a dance to raise funds to send the grade four pupils to Camp Kitchikewana. Parents of the school children and friends of the parents attended the dance at the Wyevalle Orange Hall, Saturday, May 29.

The parents of the grade four pupils and the staff of the school would like to express their appreciation to the band members.