

Actors' energy comes to rescue of Animal Farm

By Kathy Wynne
RICHMOND HILL — It was with pleasant expectation that I awaited the Richmond Hill Drama Club's production of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. It is one of those standard pieces of literature that I somehow managed to miss in my quest for knowledge. Presumably having read the text, the dramatic production would shed light on some dimension one misses in the written word. The RHHS production was successful in this part, although one could argue that what they created was a first class radio production.

Nelson Bond's adaptation is a marathon recitation; so much a marathon that by the end of the second part some of the players, who obviously knew their stuff, were fumbling some lines, lost in the monotones of the Orwellian satire.

Apart from these few flaws, near the end probably caused by

fatigue, the spoken parts were delightfully effective.

Captivating. Laurie Hutchinson as the Narrator and Farmer Jones held the audience with her vibrant manner, and Martha Buell, with a rich and lithe voice, was captivating as the cat and the mare, Clover. All the actors spoke their lines with ease and the timing was nearly perfect. There was a concentrated energy coming from the stage that is produced only by a tight and familiar troupe, and in many cases throughout the evening this energy alone, coming out in the voices, saved the piece from stalling to a halt.

Al Trotter and Ian Christie on lights did an admirable job capturing and shading the well-balanced groupings. But all the varied levels and effective lighting in the world could not alter the fact that the piece was too much of the same thing all the way through.

Perhaps this writer is not in tune with the artistry of a full-length

"reading" as opposed to a "dramatization", but this is probably the case for a large majority of people far removed from literary and dramatic circles, including the audience for whom David Phillips is directing.

If I put too much stress on characterization, which I see in this case as the only feasible route for further dramatization, then I feel Mr. Phillips did not put enough. The third person and the first person were often difficult to distinguish and even by the end of the piece I was mistaking Muriels for Mollies and narration for dialogue.

Tim Buell's music added much to the scenes, when it was used. I found myself wishing for more. So often in productions in acoustically poor high school gymnasiums taped music is either lost in the muffle or blasted raucously. The Richmond Hill crew avoided these pitfalls and the music enhanced and enchanted.

Verdi's Requiem

Top soloists York Choir and Orchestra

RICHMOND HILL — A choir of 120 voices from York Philharmonic Choir and some of Canada's top vocal soloists will get together with York Philharmonic Orchestra to present two performances of Verdi's Requiem next week.

Under the direction of Edward F. Luka, the two concerts will be presented May 8 at Minkler Auditorium, Seneca, and the following evening at Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Bayview Avenue, in Richmond Hill. Both concerts start at 8 o'clock.

Performing in the soprano role will be Margareth Zeidman, a winner of the Tyrone Guthrie Award at the Stratford Festival, and an accomplished oratorio singer, who has also sung opera in Italy and South Africa.

Contralto Janice Taylor, is also well known throughout Canada and has performed with York Philharmonic in Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Handel's "Messiah."



Edward Luka

Taking the tenor role will be Daniel Shalanko, a native of Saskatchewan, who is a graduate of University of Toronto Opera School. He has also performed frequently with various orchestras

and choirs throughout Canada.

Baritone Gary Relyea, an American by birth, and Canadian by adoption, has received critical acclaim for recent performances with the Ottawa Choral Society, and in William Walton's "The Belshazzar" on CBC-TV's Musicamera.

Music of the Requiem is described as "wonderfully melodious, and one is never subjected to arias that seem composed merely to show off a singer's technique. The solos are interspersed with one glorious whole and the trios — are truly beautiful."

For tickets and information, call Violet Wulckow, 884-4532.

Barrie big hit

MARKHAM — Singing his own compositions and many others, Canadian crooner, Keath Barrie, "sang his way into the hearts of everyone there," according to Dora Wright of Richmond Hill, who attended the Barrie concert at Minkler Auditorium at Seneca College last week.

Mrs. Wright said Barrie had a close-to-full house enthralled from beginning to end, with one of the highlights his dedication of one of his own numbers, "I'd Love to Love You," to a 92-year-old woman from Schomberg, known as Aunt Mame. The number was her favorite.

Among his other compositions that he sang were "Nova Scotia" and "Little Seagull." Barrie was accompanied by Rob McConnell and his group, with Jimmy Dale at the piano. Barrie will appear with Anne Murray during her Ontario tour, May 18-28.

Jim Irving

Love's here to stay

RICHMOND HILL — While love may not be completely sweeping the country, as in the old song, there's a good chance — if the efforts made by the performers of "Today" at Richmond Hill United Church last week are any indication that what's around is definitely here to stay.

Because that was quite clearly settled by the "good guys" of this bright and happy production, who, however, had to work right up to the dropping of the curtain to convince their radical counterparts that one didn't induce the feeling of love with a clenched fist, or a baseball bat aimed somewhere between the ears.

For the latter forces, led by "Eddie," (John Monk) — "John Diefenbaker with beads" — were the most formidable of foes, quite convinced that, while war was hell and love was all, it might not be all that remiss if something akin to war was employed to bring people about to that way of thinking.

Not quite so, said the Peanuts gang on the other side, and through song, sagacity and an occasional reference to the Lord, got their message across.

Which was that "Love is a working, growing thing" — that one must give others some credit for their views on it all and let them reach their own conclusions, too.

"We've all got to get together," they said. It wasn't up to just one person, or to one nation. "You make it all sound so simple," said big Eddie.

"Well, it is," came the reply.

Eddie, whose credo was that, the only way to be heard was by screaming, led his followers in just that way. He and his band, who planned a violent student protest, also covered themselves in clown-like makeup as another way of being noticed.

And they were. But sanity prevailed, and in the end, even the reluctant Eddie used his ghostly appearance to help the other side.

Eddie not only made himself noticed as a

rabble rouser, he also made himself noticed as a performer, giving a most convincing display.

Martha Dynes did some fine vocal work on "Where did the Circus go?" as did Monk and Marg Shorten in the opening number.

Miss Shorten was also most convincing as the one who reasoned with logic and love against the rantings of Eddie and his group.

Not necessary A disclaimer at the bottom of the program said that the cast members did not profess to be either actors or singers.

But it wasn't really necessary, for they did their numbers with a freshness and vivacity that completely caught the fancy of the audience, some of whom, such as Richmond Hill High School Principal, George Domina, they even dragged up onto the stage at the end, so they could put their toe tapping to use, too.

Especially, though, they got their message of love across, painting a clear, concise, as well as honest picture — nothing stoney-eyed — and not once resorting to the so-called "realistic" speech or mannerisms, employed by contemporary playwrights and performers.

In fact, the Richmond Hill group even made occasional fun of attempts to use more graphic language, which was the kind of realism everyone there could enjoy, because there was

good humor attached to it.

And they showed that love and life are not really all that grimly serious and bleak, as all those graphic "realists" would have us believe.

Cole Porter once said, it was just as important to write about the sun in the sky, as the dirt in the streets.

It was the sun that shone through the other night.

(Today included young people from the United, Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. It was produced by Robert Thompson; directed by Verna Harries; musical direction by Jean Thompson; color coordination by Rosemary Bennett; "stage stuff," tickets and painting by Cheryl Paxton and Tom Jellicoe.)

Jim Irving

FLEA MARKET
Buy, swap or sell articles tucked away in your attic, garage or basement
MAKE SUNDAY YOUR FAMILY FUN DAY
DRIVE-IN BAZAAR
Odeon Dufferin Theatre (Dufferin S. of Hwy. No 7)
SUNDAYS
SELLERS \$6/TABLE
BUYERS AND SWAPPERS \$1/CAR
PHONE 869-1656
669-9052

DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF GUY LOMBARDO
AND HIS ROYAL CANADIANS ORCH.
Wed., June 2nd
8:30 - 12 p.m.
DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED AGAIN
Last year more than 100 requests for tickets had to be refused because all tickets were sold. Clip and mail this coupon to-day.
Please send me..... tickets at \$20.00 per couple
Enclose \$..... in money order or certified cheque.
NAME..... PHONE.....
ADDRESS.....
MARKHAM CENTENNIAL CENTRE
8172 MCCOWAN RD., JUST NORTH OF HWY. 7
PHONE 297-1366 MARKHAM, ONT.

COUNTRY BLUE GRASS JAMBOREE
EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY AFTERNOON
AMATEUR TALENT CONTEST
SATURDAY AFTERNOONS
BUFFET DINNER DANCING
SUNDAYS 3:30 TILL 10
GERONIMO'S
YONGE ST., ELGIN MILLS
RICHMOND HILL 884-9171

RICHMOND HILL LEGION BINGO
Legion Hall, Ohio Rd., off Elgin Mills Road E. (Richmond Hill)
Branch 375
\$\$ TWO JACKPOTS \$\$
No. 1 Jackpot \$600.00 No. 2 \$500.00
WED. APRIL 28TH NO. 1 JACKPOT 56 NO'S NO. 53 NO'S
Early Birds at 7:35 p.m. - Reg. Games & Specials at 8 p.m.
"YOUR BINGO CENTRE FOR ALL SEASONS"
NO PLAYERS UNDER 16 YEARS ADMITTED

THORNHILL LIONS BINGO
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
7:40 p.m. Earlybirds
8:00 p.m. Regular Games
THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
John St. and Bayview Ave.
Thornhill
JACKPOT \$1,000.00
WITHIN **53** NUMBERS
WED. APRIL 28th **ADMISSION \$1.00**
"NO ONE UNDER 16 YEARS ADMITTED"

APPEARING IAN THOMAS
Fri. & Sat. Only
MILK BODY ROCK
No Cover
Mon. to Wed.
Next Week
LITTLE CAESAR AND THE CONSULS

Entertainment

Calendar

York Philharmonic Orchestra and York Philharmonic Orchestra, performing Verdi's Requiem — Minkler Auditorium, Seneca College, May 8; Our Lady Queen of the World Church, Richmond Hill, May 9. Edward F. Luka conducts. Call 884-4532.
Music for an April Evening — Light Classical to Broadway show tunes; April 29, Scarborough Ballet Company — Cedarbrae Collegiate Auditorium, Markham Road and Lawrence Avenue East, April 29, 30 and May 1. All proceeds to retarded of Scarborough.
Folk Night at the Factory — Factory Theatre, Henderson Drive, Aurora, April 30 at 8 p.m. With John Lott, Russ Eugene, Joel Spillette, Nicki DeVries, Wayne Scott, Mel Bryan, Susan Montgomery and Robert Daniels.

BINGO
76 MAY 8, 1976
RICHMOND HILL ARENA
KINSMEN AND KINETTE
2nd ANNUAL MONSTER BINGO
\$7600.00 MUST GO
ADMISSION \$1.00 — — — INCLUDES CHANCE ON 5 DOOR PRIZES OF \$100.00 CASH EACH

EARLY BIRDS & NIGHT OWL GAMES
REGULAR GAMES START AT 8 P.M.
18 REGULAR GAMES OF \$100.00 EACH
CARDS — — — 3 FOR \$1.00
6 SPECIAL GAMES
2 FOR \$1000.00 CARDS — 4 FOR \$2.00
2 SHARE THE WEALTH CARDS — 4 FOR \$2.00
2 FOR \$500.00 CARDS — 3 FOR \$1.00
MUST BE OVER 16 YEARS TO ATTEND
Proceeds To Cystic Fibrosis Research And Local Charities
COME ONE! COME ALL!
You don't have to be an ardent bingo player to win the \$7600⁰⁰
Why not get a group together and join us on Saturday, May 8th and help us build an adventure playground at every public and separate school in the area!
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

TUESDAY MAY 4th
ANTI-INFLATION BUCKET
A special offer from the Colonel to fight inflation — feeds 5 to 7 hungry people.
\$5.00
Scott's chicken Villa.
OVER 100 LOCATIONS IN ONTARIO — SEE YOUR PHONE BOOK FOR THE ONE NEAREST YOU.