O-P-E-N T-H-E-A-T-R-E

"Open Theatre", the leading experimental theatre company in North America will be performing at Confederation Centre Theatre on Saturday, February 19. The show is being presented by Confederation Centre in co-operation with UPEI.

The Open Theatre Ensemble was formed in 1963 in New York by Joseph Chaikin. Here the six-member cast will perform "Terminal", directed by Mr. Chaikin and Roberta Sklar with text by Susan Yankowitz, critically the most successful production ever done by the company.

"Terminal", like most of the Open Theatre productions wasn't written, it was created by the cast themselves.

"Open Theatre" and 'Terminal" won't be everybody's dish, but can provide a unique theatre experience. It has proved especially popular with younger people.

Time Magazine in a recent article on 'Open Theatre' said "audiences bored with seeing curtains go up on living rooms that imitate their own will find themselves confronted by inner, rather than outer, realities". Audiences after seeing one performance by the company tend to get enthralled with the experiment and recently in Boston, theatre-goers paid admission to see "Open Theatre" rehearse realizing that what happened in rehearsal might be as exciting as what had happened during actual performances. The "Open Theatre" company has been called "the most thoughtful, painstaking and least malarke-ridden avante-garde theatre company in the United States."

"Terminal" dipicts, in a most unusual way, the sort of "half life" that many North Americans are living today. Terminal is about death, not just death after life, but during it.

Horror, amusement and fear are some of the emotions that audiences seeing 'Terminal' experience.

In the usual sense there are no costumes, no scenery, no props and the six company members rely almost totally on their own resources, bodies, faces and voices to portray the scene/

Critics throughout the United States have praised both the company and and "terminal". New York Times critic Mel Gussow said "Terminal" will offer different things to different people but should leave no one untouched"; Newsweek magazine says "Terminal" is a powerful, affecting work that confirms Joseph Chaikin's "Open Theatre" as a success"; and Walter Kerr, also of the New York Times,

urges his readers "if you have any interest whatever in a theatre that is trying to shake itself loose of old habits and inhibitions, you'd better make plans to see "Terminal".

Tickets for :Open Theatre" production of 'Terminal' are students $1 and adults $2, and are available at the Confederation Centre Box Office.