

# MUSIC & DRAMA NIGHT

On Monday evening, the U.P.E.I. Drama Society presented an entertaining two hours of music and drama to about 85 students, staff and family of the university.

For their first presentation of the year, the Society decided to depart from the usual two hour play format, and performed a series of short, one act plays, together with a number of musical features. The program was hosted by Joan MacFarlane and Maurice Rodgers.

Although each individual act went well, the blending of the various acts, or the continuity, was, at times, weak, despite Joan and Maurice's best efforts. The result was reminiscent of a well done high school production.

Four of the six one-act plays presented were written and directed by Robbin Ward, and he is to be congratulated, as each were well written, and well performed.

Of course, the actors and actresses should be the ones accepting congratulations for their own performances. All of the performers in R.W. Ward's plays, in fact, in all the dramatic productions of the evening, "lived it up", enjoyed themselves, and as a result, each play was thoroughly enjoyable.

The four works written and directed by Robbin were: Breathless, a short comedy, The Agreement and Pass, two short dramatic pieces, and Cry

of the Gull, another dramatic play written, directed and performed with excellence by Robbin Ward. Larry Green also deserves mention for his role as a corpse in this play, as he didn't smile once....

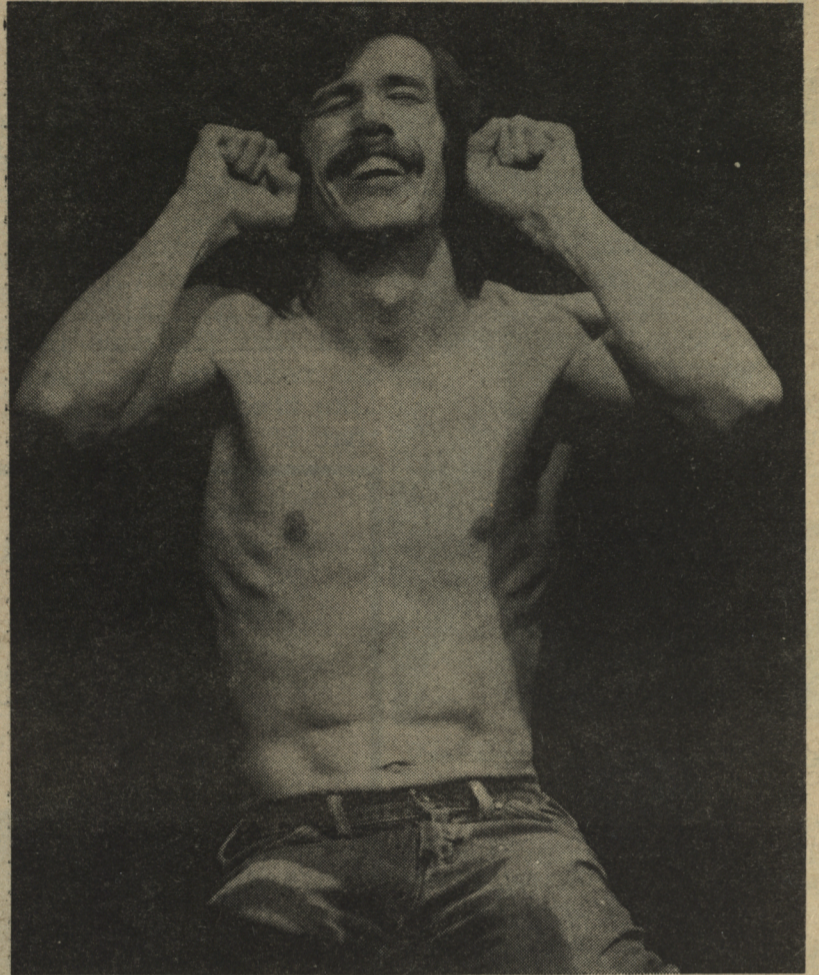
The two dance numbers, the Can-Can and the Charleston, added some liveliness to the program, not to mention the talent and beauty of the three dancers.

Joan MacFarlane directed a number of "budding performers" from the Education Society in a short comedy entitled The Wise People of Gotham. Mike MacKinnon

and Wayne Ramsay played their parts especially well, but even they could not steal the show away from our educators of tomorrow, members of the Education Society, who played the role of fools with an amazing naturalness.

The final short piece of drama of the evening was Overtones, written by Alice Gerstenberg, directed by Jennifer Tweddle. This was, perhaps, the most difficult play to perform, due to the number of lines, and the need for correct timing. The four girls played their parts almost flawlessly, and as a result, Overtones was a fitting end to the show.

The three musical performers, although they all displayed a large amount of talent, each were very nervous. Ideed, they were overly nervous, considering the size of the audience, and



the relaxed atmosphere of the occasion.

Another problem was, although each of the acts were well rehearsed, the transition between the plays was poor, especially towards the end of the show. Tables, microphones, and other props were, at first, handled quickly and unobtrusively by a number of stagehands.

But, after the intermission, most of the stagehands had disappeared, and, by the end of the evening, Maurice had begun to help move pianos

and tables himself, announcing at the same time. This lack of continuity lowered the overall quality of the show, although not to any great extent.

They say the best advertisement for an organization's future play is the success of their past performances. If this is the case, Monday night's performance should attract a large crowd to the Drama Society's next endeavor, as it really was a fine evenings entertainment.

