

## Stage North enters a new era

by Fred Galloway

Over the past several years, Fort St. John audiences have enjoyed some excellent live theatre productions as a result of the combined efforts of the Northern Lights College performing arts department and the community involvement of volunteers working through Stage North. As a result of the ministry of education's restraint policy the college had to lay off all but one of the performing arts staff, namely Fred Galloway who continues to teach acting, directing and stage craft courses at the college. In fact, this year's enrollments are better than ever and marks the first year that a certificate in community theatre is offered, the first of its kind in BC. Theatre enthusiasts and especially Stage North will certainly miss the flamboyant personality and creative energy of director producer instructor, Michael Puttonen

and the expertise and extra effort put forward by theatre technician, Barton Satchwill.

However, many students and volunteers learned a great deal working alongside Michael and Barton and Stage North, under the artistic direction of Fred Galloway, is more determined than ever to ensure the continuation of good quality theatre for the developing theatre audience in Fort St. John.

This fall, opening November 10 and running through to November 26, Thursday-through Saturday, Stage North will present "The Diary of Adam and Eve and Couples Thereafter". The evening will begin with a short play entitled "The Diary of Adam & Eve" — a humorous and tender adaptation of a Mark Twain story about life in Eden. "Couples Thereafter" is a series of vignettes which focuses on today's battle of the sexes.

While there is nothing offensive or off color in any of the material this comedy is aimed at an adult audience.

Opening January 20, a musical extravaganza, the ever popular "Fiddler on the Roof" is guaranteed to be a delightful show for the whole family. Last year's well remembered musical "The Wizard of Oz" will be hard to top, but it is expected that "Fiddler" will rival the success enjoyed by "Oz". The show has a very strong cast both musically and dramatically and it is recommended that to ensure a chance to see this touching musical, you should purchase tickets well in advance. Tickets will go on sale well before Christmas and indeed would make a fine Christmas gift for family and friends.

Next on the agenda is a possible collaboration between Stage North, the Can Canettes and the Can



REMEMBER THIS SCENE from the Wizard of Oz. Jack Temple who played the Lion will be seen as Tevey in Fiddler on the Roof; Shauna Strate who played Dorothy will play one of his daughters; Doug Xenis, the Tinman, is scene and lighting designer and Nick

Sheridan, the Scarecrow, may play the accordion for "Fiddler". Michael Puttonen, the Wizard, unfortunately was laid off by the college and is back in Vancouver directing a play called "Gone with the Mind."

Comots, a rollicking review based on the history of Fort St. John. This show would open during Mukluk and run 2 or 3 weekends at the college in February.

The final show of the season which is scheduled to open in mid-April is yet

to be decided. Plays under consideration are the hilarious Moss-Hart comedy "You Can't Take It With You," Torton Wilder's universal play "Our Town", Tennessee Williams' touching drama "The Glass Menagerie" or

possibly a Shakespeare comedy.

So, Stage North, in cooperation with Northern Lights College will continue this year with a lineup of exciting productions of the highest calibre.

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# Couples From Beginning



Jack Temple and Sandra Spencer are more involved with their own thoughts than each other in Stage North's "Countdown"; one of the vignettes from *Couples Thereafter*.

# to End

by Sue Killen

Friday evening's series of 1 act plays soundly verified the belief that Fort St. John is a community rich in talented artists.

Presented by Stage North and Northern Lights College, "The Diary of Adam and Eve" and "Couples Thereafter" illuminated the human condition of love and marriage, and the pressures and adjustments that influence relationships.

Directed by Fred Galloway, The Diary of Adam and Eve is a delightful look at earth's first humans. Not meant to mirror the biblical concept of Adam and Eve, it instead imagines what their separate personalities might have been like and how they learned to live together.

in the audience applauded in recognition when Daniel's face reflected a positively hunted look while Eve moved into Adam's home and began redecorating!)

Although Scott Olson's appearance is brief, he depicts the snake who lures Eve to the forbidden fruit tree as a tacky, but shrewd hustler.

Couples Thereafter offers a more sobering view of married life. It reminds us that every stage of a marriage requires effort and dedication as well as love. In director Doug Xenis words, "Recognizing ourselves in some of the situations, we should realize that at times we miss our aiming point, because our mates are also in motion. In order to achieve real communication with our loved ones,

Kim Chandler's Eve is a thoroughly engaging creature-at the same time introspective, verbal(some males in the audience said mouthy), intelligent and emotional. Kim's beautifully mobile face reflects clearly the myriad of Eve's moods and emotions, as she explores her new world and adjusts to that disturbing, yet exciting animal...Adam.

And Adam? More a doer than a thinker, he is the mirror (reverse) image of Eve's character. Thus, they end up complimenting each other's personality.

Daniel Vecchio plays Adam with the perfect balance of brawn and bewilderment. He resents and fights Eve as she nonchalantly interferes in his life; and yet he is unwilling to break away from her entirely. (Some male's

we need to watch and listen more often than we do."

Each vignette examines a different couple in various stages of married life, and during different decades. 10 talented actors/actresses bring life(and reality) to all the couples portrayed

They are Scott Olson & Ann Ragan(Man's Best Friend), Lisa Olenschko & Warwick Driscoll(Score), Sanna Skoreyko & Daniel Vecchio(Permanence), Jim Chapman & Diane Henry(Norma), and Jack Temple & Sandra Spencer(Countdown).

For those who have not had the opportunity to enjoy these 1 act plays, curtain time is 8 pm. November 24,25,26 and December 1, at the Northern Light's College. It will be an evening well spent.

## New artists join group

## Arts Briefs

### Donna Krane

Though Donna Krane is a newcomer to the North Peace Art Group, she is no stranger to the Peace country. Donna's parents are Red and Agnes Sorensen, well-known local guide and outfitters.

Donna has always been interested in art and took the art classes offered in school. In 179 she attended a drawing course offered through Northern Lights College. Donna started painting only last spring, taking lessons through Jan's Place in Fort St. John. She has now been painting and studying on her own, working in oils. Donna favors painting landscapes and animals. Her future projects include historical pictures, Peace scenes and the Old Fort area.

At present Donna has some paintings for sale on display at the art gallery in the Artspace. She will have some further works included in the annual spring show and sale of the North Peace Art Group. It will be held this year at the Artspace on April 28-30.

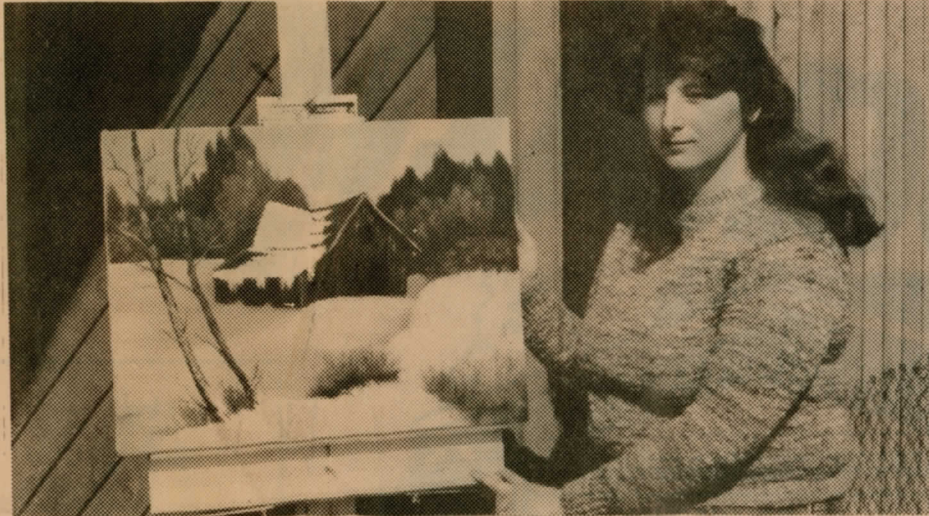
certificate and is now doing a further independent study through the college. She has participated in a week-long workshop at Moberly Lake and the Jack Campbell weekend workshop which was sponsored by the Emily Carr Outreach Program through the college.

Margaret finds time to do her own subjects and pictures in her studio set up in the attic of her home. She is now branching out and developing her own style.

As Margaret only joined the art group last spring, her works have not been

seen previously in our shows. She has a unique style and captures a liveliness and warmth in her subjects.

Be sure to look for Margaret's works at the North Peace Art Groups spring show and sale coming up on April 28-30.



DONNA KRANE

### Artspace Salutes Volunteers

'Canada Cheers Its Volunteers' is the National slogan for Volunteer Week April 18-24. The Artspace will have a Volunteer Social from 7-9 pm Friday night. A slide presentation of all clubs and facilities in Fort St. John will be shown at 8 p.m. Come to see if your group is represented. The presentation is not complete until every club is included. Everyone is welcome to drop in on Saturday when representatives will be present to talk about their club. A handicraft sale will be held in the Artspace on Saturday also from 10 am to 4 pm.

### Juried Show in Region

Twenty art works will be chosen from entries throughout the region in a Juried Art Show to be held in Dawson Creek May 25. The 20 works will be sent to the B.C. Assembly of Arts Councils to display in 'Images and Objects' at Robson Square, Vancouver in July. Artists and Craftsmen can pick up the entry forms at the Artspace. The entry fee is \$2 and the limit is two entries per person. Works will be collected by May 13 at the Artspace. Phone 785-1983 for information.

### B.C. Young Artists

The entries are now being accepted at the Emily Carr College of Art for the B.C. Young Artists Exhibit which will tour the province in 1984. Young artists can pick up the regulations and entry forms at the Artspace. Teachers may find entry forms for their students at the School Administration building. Lisa Bovee, Attachie student, had a photo chosen for the 1982 exhibit. More entries may result in more representation from the North Peace.

# Jellison dancers clean up with the medals

by Margaret Fox  
During the spring break approximately 25 dancers from the Jellison Suidio gathered in Prince George to compete in the annual Prince George Dance Festival along with 1,300 other dancers.

Our dancers had some very stiff competition from Edmonton, Kamloops, Chesnel and Prince George, but went on

confidently to bring home medals in almost all categories.

Shawna and Leanne Strate won a trophy with a mark of 93, the highest mark given (apart from teachers' own choreography) in this year's festival for an eye-dazzling stage duo number, 'We go together'. Shauna and Leanne certainly had to go together as they were

neatly tucked into one enlarged shirt. Their footwork was superb.

Two little fat munchkins turned up again and left us breathless with a high-energy song and dance 'Ding Dong the Witch is Dead,' from the Wizard of Oz. Hiding beneath the rosy cheeks were Allyson Fox and Janelle Urchenko who sang and cartwheeled their way to a mark of 92 and a trophy for best stage song

and dance duo.

Janelle Urchenko also won a trophy for her musical interpretation in the 6 and under class. The adjudicator also loved her smile.

Kari Phillips received a mark of 89 and a trophy for her acrobatic solo. Kari is always nice to watch.

Jellison Studios won the much-coveted trophy for Teachers Own Choreography with a mark of 98, for the Stage duo, 'We Go Together.'

An added highlight of a festival is the Honours Night. Out of the hundreds of dances performed approximately 20 are chosen by the adjudicators to make up the honours program. We were thrilled when Shauna and Leanne Strate and Allyson Fox and Janelle Urchenko were asked to stay and do their duo numbers at the concert. Janelle also did her Baby Highland Fling along with the other Baby Highland winners. It was a very enjoyable and fun-filled evening and the audience loved the munchkins so much they had to come back for an encore and a curtain call.

Leanne Strate was also presented with a \$100 tuition scholarship at the Honors Concert.

trophy; stage song and dance gold; classical ballet silver; character gold; demi-character bronze; baby highland fling gold.

4. Patricia Koshurba - musical int. silver; demi-character silver; open tap solo - bronze.

Christine Barrow - musical int. bronze; demi-character bronze.

Allyson Fox - Stage song and dance silver; classical ballet bronze; character bronze.

Christy Campbell - Stage song and dance bronze; classical ballet silver; character gold.

Dione Russell - Stage song and dance silver; demi-character gold.

Tanya Schobert - Stage song and dance bronze.

Nicole Manley - mus. int. gold; demi-character silver.

Andrea Van Donselaar - musical int. gold; character bronze.

Deneen Babcock - musical int. bronze; stage song and dance bronze.

Sherri Campbell - character bronze.

Shauna Strate - stage song and dance gold.

Debbie Friesen - Stage song and dance silver; demi-character gold.

Linda Bacon - Stage song and dance silver; character gold.

under) gold; beginner sword (12 and under) silver; beginner lilt (12 and under) silver.

**DUO**  
Allyson Fox and Janelle Urchenko, stage song and dance, gold and trophy.

2. Shauna and Leanne Strate, stage, no voice, gold and trophy.

3. Deneen Babcock and Sherri Campbell, stage, no voice, silver.

**GROUPS**

1. Rubber Ducky - Page Russell, Melinda McLean, Janelle Urchenko, Kim McDonald, Allyson Fox - gold.

2. 76 Trombones - Kelty Thompson, Sherri Campbell, Debbie Friesen, Tanya Schobert, Andrea Van Donselaar, Christy Campbell, Nicole Manley, Marla Polegi, Christine Barrow, Dione Russell, Tosh Brown, Deneen Babcock, Cindy Nuremberger, Christy Reagon - gold.

3. Ya Gotta Have Heart - Sherri Campbell, Debbie Friesen, Marla Polegi, Deneen Babcock, Tanya Schobert - gold.

4. Entertainer - tap - Sherri Campbell, Shauna Strate, Leanne Strate, Deneen Babcock, Trina



ENTERTAINER AWARD - left to right Deneen Babcock, Sherri Campbell, Leanne Strate, Shauna Strate and Trina Barclay.



**THE WIZARD OF Oz Munchkins** are one of the many acts pledged for the Child Development Centre Talent Show tomorrow night. Many interesting challenges have arisen from the various pledges, for example, the Munchkins'

parents will buy one square foot in the name of the Munchkins for the new building if the community will match it with pledges to total \$100.

# Letters to the Editor

## Thanks from Stage North

Editor, Alaska Hwy News,

The Wizard of Oz closed last Saturday night, just as it opened four weeks ago and as it played during its 12 performances — with great gusto, high spirits, and a standing ovation from an appreciative audience. On behalf of the more than 200 participants in the Wizard of Oz, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Fort St. John audiences who made each night such a joy during the run of the show.

The Wizard was definitely the biggest success in Stage North's six-year history, in terms of audience and box-office returns, and has put us on a sound financial footing for our next show, Rinse Cycle, which will open in early

April. But the real success story is to be found in the collective experience of the cast, crew, and those adorable Munchkins, all of whom learned a great deal about the joy of sharing their talent and hard work with fellow members of their community. The love, devotion and sharing that was put into the experience leaves each of the individual participants with a bank of fond memories that they can draw upon for years to come.

Shiela Sapers, Merrill Flewelling and I, as the show's directors, would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all those who worked to make the show something we could all be proud of, and to the wonderful Fort St. John audience, more

than 2,000 in all, who supported the show.

From the generous participation of the many community groups who donated the seed money to get the ball rolling, to the various businesses and individuals who donated goods and services, and the volunteers who spent countless hours of dedicated labour, to the talented cast and crew running the show, and the warm-hearted people who were our audiences every night, running through it all like a thread was the sense of community pride and goodwill that made the Wizard of Oz a show that will be remembered as one of the events of '83.

Thank you all  
Fred Galloway  
Stage North

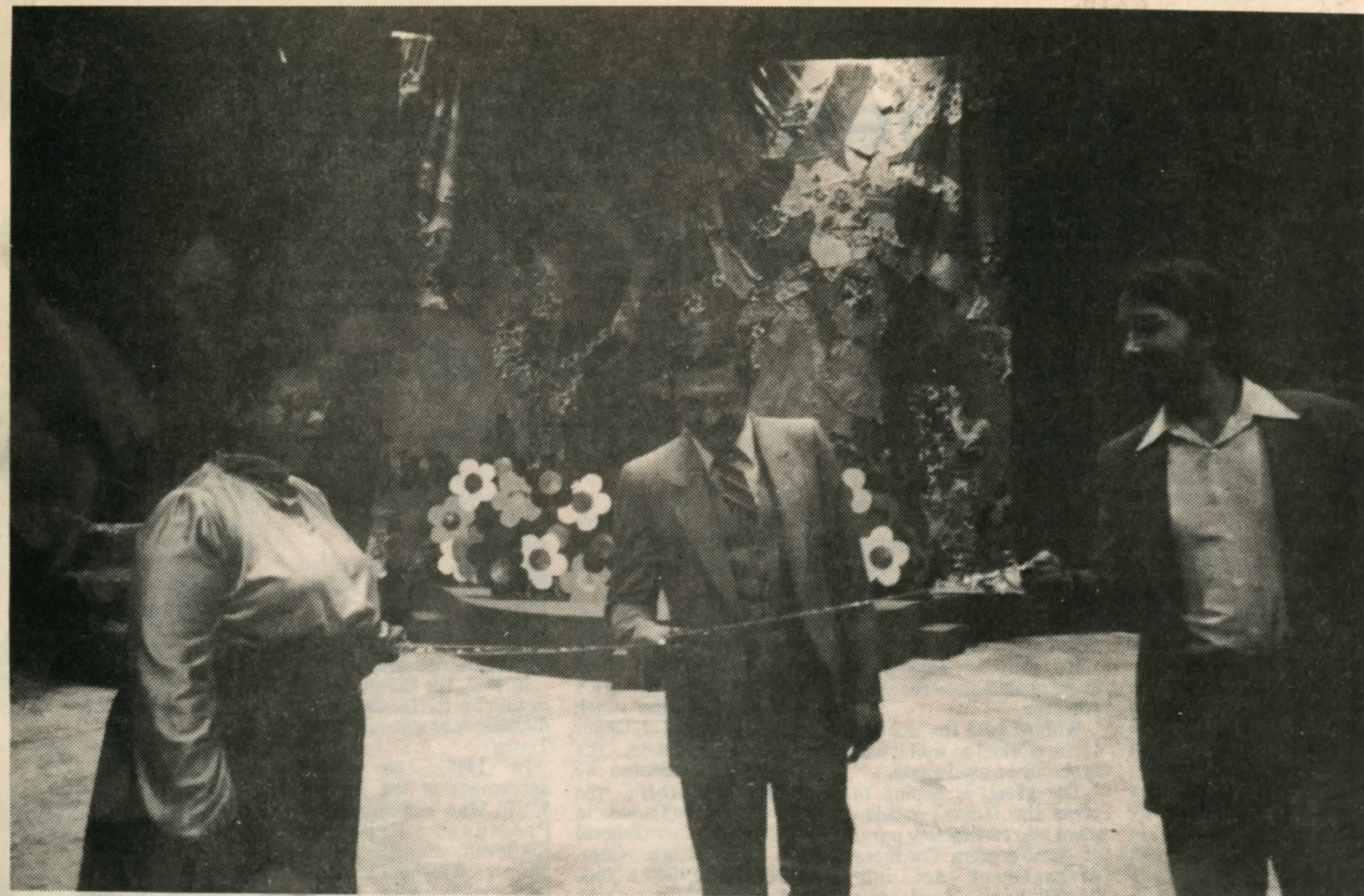
Hmmm. AHN EDITORIAL  
Wed, Jan 19 1983

I have been asked to keep the forthcoming StageNorth production of 'The Wizard of Oz' in the public eye. Very well, I will. It opens on the weekend of February 4, starring Shawna Strate as Dorothy and Eric Graham as the Mayor of the Munchkins. The big mystery is who is playing the Wizard...

Speaking of His Worship, the Kinsmen were among the generous supporters of the production, without whose donations it would simply not be possible. The thing is was Eric another donation, or did they have to give Stage North the donation to get them to take him?

Better buy a ticket and judge for yourself...





# Grand Opening

A week ago tonight, Abe Unruh, member of the Northern Lights College Board of Directors, cut the ribbon for the official opening of Northern Lights College Multi Purpose Room and opening night for the 'Wizard of Oz'. Holding the

ribbon are the show's directors Fred Galloway and Sheila Sapers. It continues for two more weekends and possibly a holdover for a third week. (Picture by Dave Bradley.)



THE CREW AND PART of the cast of the Wizard of Oz held a paper mache party last week to construct the castle for the Wiz production. The show has nearly 60-

local performers and promises to be a hit. It opens Feb. 4 at the new Northern Lights College. Tickets are available at the Artspace.

# Craftman's Association will offer workshops

by Sylvia Bough

The Peace Country Craftsman's Association will be offering four workshops in April covering a wide range.

For all those needleworkers who get the heebie-jeebies at the thought of finishing their embroideries, there will be a three-hour workshop on 'finishing and Framing Needlework.' Blocking, mounting and framing will be covered, of both canvaswork (e.g. needlepoint) and surface stitchery (e.g. cross-stitch, crewel), and it is hoped that one circular

or oval project will be included.

Those who chose the three-hour workshop on Fairisle Knitting will learn the single technique required for this beautiful and colorful knitting, and will start on a small project.

Five needlepoint stitches will be learned by those who take the six-hour workshop on canvas embroidery split into two evening sessions on Thursdays, April 14 and 21.

They will make a monochromatic sampler, the beauty of which lies in

the texture of the stitches.

And if you want to remind your family of Mother's Day, take in the cake decorating workshop, 2x3-hour sessions on April 11 and 12th. Students will bring an 8" or 9" cake, and choose to decorate it as a Mother's Day, birthday or general occasion cake.

Fees are not yet set, but will be in the \$8-\$10 range for three-hour sessions, and the \$14-16 range for six-hour sessions.

Other dates and all fees will be announced on Arts

Continued on page seven

## Mukluk tickets available soon

Final preparations for putting together the program and discussion of lottery ticket sales and special events took up the meeting of the Fort St. John Mukluk Society on Tuesday.

The meeting at Jades Garden completed plans for getting the last of the material in for the program, which will salute the 1984 British Columbia Winter Games in Fort St. John.

The deadline for inclusion of information on the various events in the program was reached officially at the meeting on Tuesday.

The Mukluk Rendezvous will run on two consecutive weekends, with events scheduled for the January 27, 28 and 29 and February 3, 4 and 5.

The meeting also decided that there would again be a sponsors bash held prior to the Mukluk Rendezvous in order to build up enthusiasm for the two-weekend event.

Mukluk souvenir buttons also were discussed and examined and it was decided that the committee responsible would make a decision as to the maker in order to prepare them in

time for distribution at the British Columbia Winter Games Torch Lighting Ceremony on November 17.

The tickets to be sold on

the Mukluk lottery will be available next week and the society is looking to get every organization involved in the Rendezvous

to work hard at selling.

The next meeting of the Mukluk Society is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 24 at Jades Garden.