

Should be big season

Stage North is promising a big season for theatre lovers in Fort St John this year, including two original plays, a classic, and four touring plays.

"It will be one of the biggest seasons in the province," insists Ti Hallas of Stage North, and technical director Randy Nicholson agrees that it will be "the biggest variety for a town this size."

The first of the season will be *Waiting For The Parade*, which is a touring show being brought in by the National Arts Centre from Ottawa.

"We were invited to have *Waiting For The Parade*,"

Hallas says, "and I think there is reason for that." She suggests that Fort St John is rapidly gaining a reputation as a city with an active, exciting interest in theatre.

Fort St John is lucky to have this play made available here, says Nicholson, adding that this will be "the only city in BC to have this show."

It is a war nostalgia play, about women waiting for their men to come back from the war.

QUITE UNIQUE

It is unique in that the cast consists of five women, and no men.

Waiting For The Parade

elaborate props.

It will run until November 17.

Following that will be *Billy Bishop Goes To War*, a much-heralded play that is headed for the stages of New York.

Presented by the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on tour, Billy Bishop is also a war nostalgia play about an unsung Canadian hero who just may have shot down the Red Baron.

BEAUTIFUL

According to Nicholson, who has seen the play, it is

"a beautiful show."

It is scheduled for Feb 13 next year.

On March 13 Stage North will make available an original play for theatre-goers. What exactly the play will be is not yet known, but it will be presented by local actors and technicians. It runs until March 29.

The last of the touring shows for the season will be *Same Time Next Year*, presented by the Arts Club Theatre and it will play to local audiences April 15.

This popular play is a

will play Oct 2 and is followed Oct 15 by Jacques Brel Is..., a David Y H Lui production, also on tour.

Jacques Brel Is... is a scenario of the music of Jacques Brel.

"A musical extravaganza," according to Stage North.

The third play this year, starting November 1 will be *The Peace River Chronicles*, a play about Peace country history written by Brian Paisley of Stage North. This is promised to be a real epic, with elegant costuming and

romantic comedy about two people who meet once a year for an affair. It spans 25 years of their lives, and should appeal to any age.

The final play of the season is going to be a classic, and although organizers don't know what it will be yet, *The Tempest* has been suggested.

It will run June 12-28.

The four touring shows will be playing for one night only, at the North Peace Secondary school.

Nicholson says they have been working on the stage

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at the school, and it should provide better sound this season as well as a better space to perform.

GOOD SPACE

"We finally have a good showing space," says Nicholson, explaining that the stage has been extended 15 feet.

"We'll be able to bring it out closer to the audience," he says.

There will also be twice as many front row seats available in comparison to last season.

Even with the improvements, Nicholson refuses to admit that Fort St John has adequate theatre facilities, and says that it took a lot of work to get good plays for the city since there is not a real theatre to offer the touring companies.

But he says, "We do the best we can with the facilities we have."

The three plays that will be put on by the Stage

North group will be running nine evenings at the Stage North Theatre.

Door tickets for the seven shows are priced at \$7 for the touring shows and \$5 for the Stage North shows, and senior citizens and students will pay \$2 less for each.

TICKETS AVAILABLE

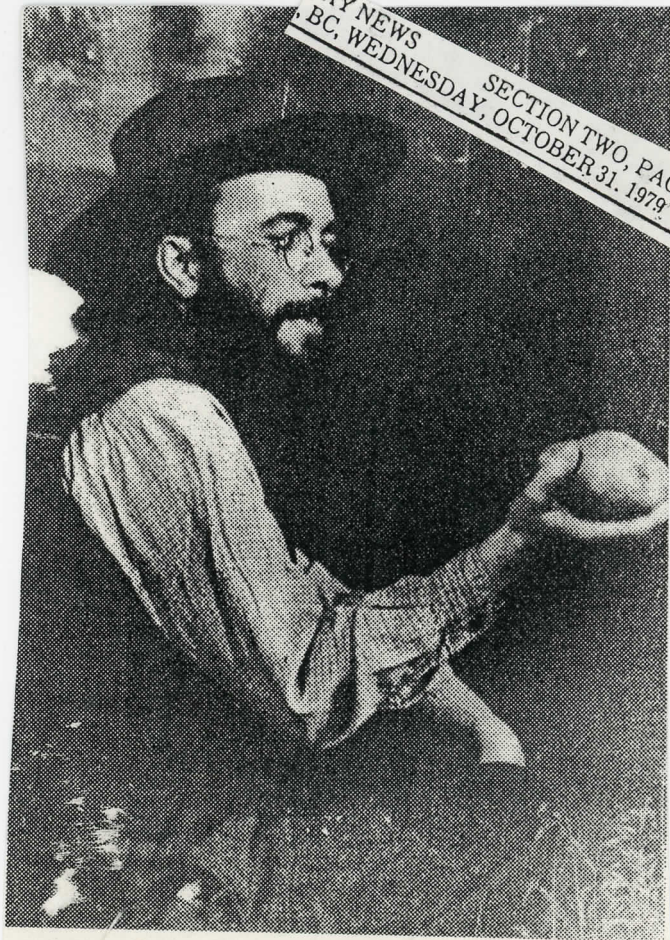
Season tickets are also available now at the college, and will cost \$50 per couple, \$30 per person, and \$20 for senior citizens and students.

The saving for buying season tickets is \$36 per couple and \$13 per person.

Senior citizens and students will be able to see seven shows for \$20 if they buy a season tickets, and Nicholson says this would be "cheaper than a movie," on the average.

The tickets can be picked up at Northern Lights College or reserved if they are picked up within one week.

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ROBBIE RAPIN AS Macdonell contemplates a potato in one scene from *Peace River Chronicles*. (photo: Wayne Morgan)