

Plays provided the entertainment

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MAR 26, 1985

By AL STRANGE

A trio of one-act plays put on by Stage North debuted on Saturday at Northern Lights College and — if opening night was any indication — the four other performances should be well received.

The Oyster and the Pearl, I Bring You Flowers and Beginnings are the three plays put together for the performances, which run on March 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m.

The first performances of the one-act plays attracted a sold-out audience, which responded well to the on-stage presentations.

Of the three plays, I Bring You Flowers and Beginnings, drew the best response.

But the Oyster and the Pearl did have one special feature as everyone in attendance had a chance to win an actual pearl.

At each performance the pearl can be won.

On Saturday, Marie

Therese MacDonell came away as the winner of the pearl.

As for the plays, I Bring You Flowers was carried off successfully as young Shawna Phillips and Cameron Fines — both just 15 years old — managed to move between reflective and angry and happy and joyful as they remembered the past and compared it to the present.

For their youth, the two managed to keep the audience into the play.

Beginnings was a comedic take-off on creation and as the last of the three to be acted out took the viewers from the seriousness of I Bring You Flowers to the laughter of the concluding play.

Three were on stage for Beginnings and provided enough through their efforts to keep the audience's attention.

The Oyster and the Pearl featured the

biggest cast and saw a good performance from Jack Temple and young Robert Dayton.

Set in a barber shop, the play revolved around the hopes and dreams of youth and did do enough to at least set the stage for the rest of the evening.

It seemed that most in the cast were just doing the lines, the gesturing and words not always fitting together as well as it could have.

For the most part, however, the evening of plays carried enough entertainment value to make it worth watching.

Final curtain for one-acts

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The final two performances of Stage North's current production will be this Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16.

The three one-act plays combine delightful comedy with emotional drama to create a lively and interesting evening of theatre. The three plays are *The Oyster and the Pearl*, *I Bring You Flowers* and *Beginnings*.

And each evening every member of the audience has the opportunity to win a real cultured pearl.

The curtain goes up for the last two shows at 8 p.m. at Northern Lights College. Tickets are available at the door, from JRS Audioscene or at The Artspace. Prices for adults are \$6, seniors and students are \$4.

MAR 13, 1985

Director takes risks

FEB 27, 1985

Deep

"I never do plays people have heard of....plays everyone else puts on," says Daniel Vecchio, director of one of the three plays in Stage North's upcoming production. "I like taking risks."

And, it might be said, Vecchio is taking a big risk by casting two 15-year-olds in the roles of a young married couple trying to come to terms with the death of their child. The play is *I Bring You Flowers* by William Lang.

Shawna Phillips and Cameron Fines play the husband and wife. Both have been students of Vecchio's at Bert Bowes for three years. Vecchio says the play was very challenging for him as well as the actors. At 15 the actors have not experienced marriage, children or the death of a child. But, he says, by slowly working through the highly emotional scenes, it has really worked.

"The rehearsal process has been grueling but we are ready," Vecchio says.

This is Vecchio's directorial debut with Stage North although

he has been directing and teaching theatre about six years. He has been involved in theatre since about grade five having grown up in a family heavily

involved in the arts.

The evening of three, one-act plays opens on Saturday, March 2, 8 p.m. at Northern Lights College. There will also be per-

formances March 8 and 9, and March 15 and 16. Tickets, \$6 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors, are available now at the Artspace.

Something different

"It was either fig leaves or pearls. Somehow we thought the audience might appreciate the pearls more."

The people doing publicity for Stage North's current production, an evening of three one-act plays, decided this time to try something slightly commercial, but not crass, to advertise the show.

"I remember a store in town flying in orchids to give to the first 25 ladies who walked through the door. So we thought we would try something along the same lines to get people out to see

the plays. Because one of the plays, *Beginnings*, is about Adam and Eve, we thought about giving out fig leaves to the first 25 men who came naked. But then we decided that might keep people away from the show. Another of the plays is called *The Oyster and the Pearl*. So we hit upon the idea of handing every one in the audience an envelope, one of which every night will have a real cultured pearl in it."

"When a group of people such as Stage North works so hard putting on a show, we think they should have as large and ap-

preciative audience as possible to watch them. We think our pearl idea might catch the imagination of people who like to take a gamble. Besides, the audience can't lose. Even if they don't win a pearl, they still get to see a gem of a theatrical evening."

The plays, *The Oyster and the Pearl*, *I Bring You Flowers* and *Beginnings*, open on Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m. at Northern Lights College. There will be performances on Fridays and Saturdays, March 8, 9, 15 and 16. Tickets are available at the Artspace.