

Shoestring Series

The Shoestring Series in Halifax has taken off! Each Tuesday at 8.30 a lively pub-load of customers is regaled with what organizer Carol Sinclair lovingly gloats is "fifteen minutes of gorgeous reading". The Economy Shoe Store (don't be fooled, it's a bar) owner-manager team Vic and David are delightfully supportive, and no doubt happy at the crowds who assemble weekly to hear the broad variety of writers.

IF YOU ARE WILLING,
AND IN HALIFAX WE
WANT YOU TO READ!

Please contact Carol, get on the list and start having fun. Better still, start a copycat series on your turf, just refer to your last newsletter for how-to and call Paula for moral support.

Formal Notification of PARC AGM

Saturday August 24, 6 P.M.

Members are called to the 7th PARC Annual General Meeting, which will springboard off the celebratory mood following the culminating playreadings of the Moveable Feast. AGM's are known for their rapidfire business style, memorable jokes, and the cash bar that follows them. Please join us at City Cinema, 146 Richmond St. Charlottetown C1A 1H9

Its at these events that important exchanges are made, of scripts, ideas and moral support. Future production plans are developed, and artistic relationships launched — so please enter into the spirit of the Feast and share what you have!

Moveable Feast Script Submissions!

Moveable Feast 1996 August 19 through 25, Prince Edward Island

The 6th Annual Moveable Feast will be unveiled in beautiful Prince Edward Island under the gracious auspices of Theatre P.E.I, to whom we are extremely grateful for their generous support.



Only the table stands still: Moveable Feast '94

- What is the Moveable Feast?

For those new to PARC, the Moveable Feast is our biggest budget event of the year. Four playwrights, selected by a jury of playwrights from each of our five regions (Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Newfoundland) are paid an honorarium, and brought to a writer's colony hosted by a professional theatre. Here they "workshop" their plays with the help of a company of professional actors and a professional dramaturg. The workshop is planned by the individual playwrights in consultation with the dramaturg, and the experience varies widely according to the needs of each play and writer.

Each year, PARC seeks to connect the playwrights with theatre professionals from the Atlantic region, and also with one dramaturg who might take news of our writers/plays to the larger national scene. The Feast is able to do this because of the funding assistance of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council., Theatre Section. This year we hope other Atlantic Provinces will also help us to confront Rising Costs.

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Membership 96-97

Traditionally our membership drive for the upcoming year co-incides with our call for submissions for the Moveable Feast. This is IT! Keep PARC fuelled, and send in your \$25 for 1996-97 membership. Please use PARC to communicate your ideas thoughts, opinions and needs— there's a network of fellow writers in the Atlantic who will do their best to help you. This organization is our opportunity to stay connected not just to one another but to theatres, who do listen to us. It's our forum to help emerging writers and experienced hands, and perhaps most importantly, it is symbolic of the desire to fabricate a culture indigenous to the actual lives we live.

So fill out the form!

The Never Ending Lobby

"Harmonized" Taxes increase Book costs by 15%

As writers we should likely be concerned with the Provincial Government's plan to apply the newly "harmonised" (dischordant?) PST and GST to books. Books will be priced out of range of most families, particularly of young people, and librarians fear that their shrinking budgets will no longer cope with the demands of replacement and purchasing. The government's proposal seems especially asinine in our region which already suffers with 25% higher rates of illiteracy to anywhere else in the country.

Jane Buss, executive director of the Writers Federation has been busily organising various protests, including a 24 hour read-a-thon- against the tax outside Halifax Library. She points out that since writers only make 5% royalties off each book sold and the government will now be making more than twice as much, they are usurping the rights of the author in an unprecedented way. Moreover, other provinces are NOT taxing books.

Jane's persistence has got her a meeting with Bernie Boudreau, Minister of Finance. The uproar about the tax proposal does seem to have at least caught his attention, so, if you want to support the protest you can write to him:

Bernie Boudreau,
Nova Scotia Minister of Finance
P.O. Box 187 Halifax B3J 2N3.

If you want to call in a tirade, his number is (902)424 5720

Amateur Performance Copyright Under Attack

Unfortunately, another lobby issue has raised its ugly head, from the **federal government** this time. This is the proposed legislation (presently tabled and expected to go to Parliamentary Committee this summer) about copyright and "fairdealing". The main problem with the legislation is that it seriously threatens the protection writers have previously assumed in the definition of "fairdealing". A proposed change of wording excepts from copyright obligation "non-profit educational institutions, libraries, archives and museums as well as people with perceptual disabilities".

This legislation undermines the existence of CanCopy, the royalty collection and distribution agency which has encouraged real fairdealing towards Canadian authors Without Cancopy, particularly now that the internet has made copyright so vulnerable, Canadian authors will have nowhere to turn.

The clause "as well as people with perceptual difficulties" is particularly hilarious as it implies that anyone with spectacles is above the need to respect copyright. Playwrights would become "fair game" to any "educational" reading, performance, electronic communicate or hand-out This only serves to pit the interests of one struggling and disadvantaged group (education facilitators) against another *even more* struggling and even more disadvantaged group (Canadian writers).

Playwrights Union Canada is asking writers across the country to contact their Members of Parliament to ask them to oppose the proposed legislation. I have written a letter on behalf of PARC. Perhaps individual members could follow up with more? The lobby is exhausting, I know, but I think it benefits us all.

"Script - Ease"

Two easy-script events have taken place in Nova Scotia! "Runways, Tea-Rooms and Light Summer Dresses" by Jim McSwain and Paul Coulliard was beautifully read by Walter Borden and Paul Amile d'Etramont at the Economy Shoe Store in Halifax, Saturday May 16. The house was packed, and the play received an extremely enthusiastic response. Jim McSwain was heard to say that the opportunity to hear his play with an audience response was valuable the first time at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto, and no less so with the different audience of Halifax.

"Anais Nin Ascending" by Wanda Graham was presented after a interesting process which connected her work with a playwriting and directing student from Dalhousie's Theatre programme. Jamie took the initiative to explore the developing script with some fellow directing and acting students, ending in the public reading. Wanda describes the structure of her play as "mobile", so that scenes are not chronologically ordered but interchangeable so as to shift the meaning and impact of the plays content, also demanding a spontaneity from actors, who must respond to sudden scene shifts with agility.

PARC Easy Contact Numbers:

Chair: Paula Danckert (902) 425 0918
Board: Krista Wells (902) 254 2972
Atlantic PJC rep.
: Gyllian Raby (902) 425 5971
Secretary: Bev Brett (902) 929 2426
Treas.: Kevin Gibson (506) 455 2430
Moveable Feast Co-ordinator:
Martha Irving (902) 454 6367
Theatre PEI contact:
Rob McLean (902) 962 3468

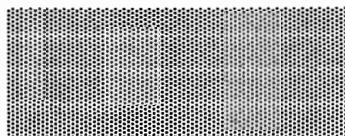
PARC is a fully volunteer organization. If yew criticize the speling in this newsletter, pleas gfv you help next time.

This year's Moveable Feast Co-Ordinator

Martha Irving is a professional actress and singer, who has spent years specializing in new development. Much of her work has been in the Atlantic, but she has worked with prominent writers across the country. Originally from Prince Edward Island, Martha knows the terrain, and we can all count on this exceptionally well organized, sunny and capable theatre worker to do an exemplary job. Hats off to Martha!

LMDA

The Literary Managers and Dramaturges of America is an umbrella national "New Drama" organization that resembles PARC— but they have a part-time administrator (so we are envious). Their main product is a catalogue of new plays in which several PARC members are already featured. This is distributed to producing theatre companies across the United States — shortly to be extended to Canada. At their annual conference recently held in Toronto, LAMDA instituted a Canadian caucus and Paula Danckert was asked to be the Atlantic Region representative. Paula will endeavour to represent issues about play creation and production in the Atlantic on behalf of PARC members, and will willingly provide anyone interested with more information about LAMDA.



Moveable Feast continued

Our Theatre Hosts

Theatre P.E.I Artistic Director Ron Irving, Associate Artistic Director Rob McLean and their trusty team of benign arts administrators have, for the second time, thrown themselves solidly behind the Feast in the tradition of the exemplary hosts we have enjoyed in the past at Ship's Company, Theatre New Brunswick, Rising Tide Theatre...

The Dramaturg

We have confirmed one of the Dramaturgs who will be there to serve the writers: (Dr.) Bruce Barton, a nationally recognised playwright and dramaturg, has been teaching Drama at Memorial University for the past five years. Bruce is known for his love of theatre, his moral support of playwrights, his wide knowledge of theatrical genre, sharp analytical eye, and friendly freewheeling style.

We are still working on the "dramaturg from away", and will keep you posted, or you can call Martha Irving at (902) 454 6367.

In the meantime, get those scripts to us!

Any and all playscripts will be considered; just dash off a note about your hopes and aspirations for the work, and your sense of its state of development, and mail it to the selector in your region:

Newfoundland: Moveable Feast 309 Southside Road,
St. John's Nfld. A1E 1A1

P.E.I.: Moveable Feast, City Cinema, 146 Richmond St.
Charlottetown C1A 1H9

Cape Breton: Moveable Feast, 54 Park Street,
Sydney N.S. B1P 4W4

Nova Scotia: Moveable Feast, 283 Brookside Road,
RR2 Armdale Nova Scotia B3J 4J2

New Brunswick: Moveable Feast, 180 Charlotte Street,
Fredericton New Brunswick E3B 1L2

There is no "reader's fee" for submissions, all we ask is that you be a member in good standing, so if you never got round to sending PARC your 1995-6 dues (\$25, remember?) just throw it in the envelope with your submission, and the selectors will forward it to the organization's account.

If you don't make a submission, or you don't make it to the Feast itself but you're interested in the Feast/ Workshop process and like the idea of visiting P.E.I. come along to the last day of the Feast to hear the readings, join in the discussions and help plan the future of PARC.

NEWS

I apologize for the omissions in this account. Its incredible how much goes on that I don't hear about. For example, I was at the PUC meeting doing a report as best I could on Atlantic members, and didn't realize until Chris O'Neill, the co-Artistic Director filled me in, that Two Planks and a Passion Theatre toured a hugely successful original play production about Westrae across Canada last year. Incidentally, Two Planks and a Passion are encouraging play submissions, which you can send to r.r.5, Canning, Kings County NS BOP 1H0.

Please contact me (Gyllian) with news for inclusion on this page. We're as always dependant on members to keep us in the picture.....

New Brunswick

"Possessed by Esther Cox" a musical by Charlie Rhindress and Karen Volanne and music by Dean Burry toured Nova Scotia with Live Bait Theatre. Charlie and Karen have also created Baby Bailey (not a play) born in January—congratulations!—and a dinner theatre play "Under the Night".

Lee Rivenbark and Ilke Silke have started a summer theatre company in New Brunswick. Please send us more details on this!

Nova Scotia

Nathalie Meisner's play "Virtual Woman" will open at Chestnut Tree Theatre" on Gottingen Street June 27-June 30.

The Womens' Theatre and Creativity Centre presents "Weaving Strands" and a summer solstice gathering at the North Street Church, Friday 21 June.

Patrick Christopher and Elizabeth Murphy's company Shakespeare by the Sea have commissioned Mike Melski to adapt Hamlet for this year's season.

Mulgrave Road Theatre workshopped Mary Vingoe's "The Company Store" which she is adapting from Sheldon Currie's short story of that title.

Wendy Lill's "Glace Bay Miner's Museum" is included in the seasons of three major theatres next year, in co-production with our own Eastern Front. Congratulations!

Theatre Antigonish will present Mike Petersen's "Don't Get me Started", which premiered at Eastern Front Theatre.

Annapolis Royal presents Lance Woolaver's play "Life Without Shadows", which opens July 1st weekend.

The Cape Breton Review, directed by Bryden MacDonald, is now touring with new pieces written by Bryden, Daniel Melvor, Walter Doyle and other highly talented members of the cast.

Newfoundland

lots more details needed

— We think there's a new work being presented by the Stevensville Festival?

— Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador are doing a summer series of new plays while artistic director Jerry Ettienne acts at the Atlantic Theatre Festival.

— Trinity Bay Pageant by Rising Tide Theatre presents numerous new works by writers such as Des Walsh, Robert Chase, Katrina Bromley. Rising Tide will also present Michael Cook's play "Head Guts and Sound Bone Dance", and evenings of Dinner Theatre.

Prince Edward Island

— August 19-25 The Milton Acorn Festival co-incides with the Movcable Feast, and some writers will be featured at both events. Its sure to be an exciting time!

PARC MEMBERSHIP 1996-1997

Yes, I would like to join or renew my membership.

Name _____ Fax _____

Address _____ Phone _____

PCode _____

I have enclosed a cheque or money order for \$25, payable to: PARC.. Box 275 Parrsboro N.S. BOM ISO