

UNB/STU Creative Arts presents... David Adams Richards & The Gryphon Trio

Chris Wilson-Smith

The Brunswickan

UNB/STU Creative Arts will be presenting an evening of electrifying music and passionate readings on Wednesday, September 19, at the Wilmot United Church. The first concert of the season will showcase the readings of multi-award winning author David Adams Richards, as well as music from the world-renowned classical group The Gryphon Trio.

Richards, who was three credits shy of a degree from St. Thomas University, wrote his first novel, *The Coming of Winter*, at the age of twenty-two. He enjoyed immediate critical acclaim for the work, winning the Norma Epstein prize, establishing himself as one of Canada's most promising young authors.

Richards, who hails from Newcastle, has become synonymous with his

birthplace. Described as sensitive and compassionate to human emotion, his first eight novels— as well as his most recent, *Mercy Among Children*— take place in the Miramichi area. Through capturing the essence of human needs, Richards has enjoyed much success throughout his career, twice winning the Governor General's Award for fiction.

The Gryphon Trio is an internationally recognized classical group that has enjoyed acclaim and success wherever it plays. Mixing a high-energy performance with traditional musical selections such as Canadian Gary Kulesha's "Trio for Violin, Cello And Piano," Gryphon has achieved a fame equal to that of the mythological half-eagle, half-lion creature.

Having played in the United States, Europe and Canada, Roman Borys (cello), Annalee Patipatanakoon (violin), and Jamie Parker (pianist), have brought back with them an extremely well-polished show, establishing the trio as one of Canada's finest chamber ensembles.

In addition to touring, the trio has made numerous appearances on CBC's national radio networks, and frequently gives school presentations.

The evening begins at 8:00 pm at the Wilmot United Church. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and only \$6 for those lucky students.



Cha Chi on Acid

With The Scapegoatz and Rockin' Argento's

Matt Gay

The Brunswickan

It was hot and smoky, and beer was two dollars a double draft at The Capital last Tuesday.

The Scapegoatz and the Rockin' Argento's, both local, opened for Cha Chi on Acid. There was a better-than-expected turnout for the show considering the headlining act was an unheard of band.

The Scapegoatz delivered a solid set made better with the addition of their new drummer. Energetic, fast, and entertaining has become a trademark for this straight-out punk band. Their tunes had people bopping their heads and tapping their toes. These guys have been playing around town quite a bit lately—check them out next chance you get.

Next up was the Rockin' Argento's. These guys are a horror punk band who sound a bit like The Misfits and a bit like balls out rock 'n' roll. They are a new local band with a unique sound and the crowd loved it. They played a short set and had the crowd on their feet chanting along after the first song. The Rockin' Argento's is a name I'm sure people will hear again soon.

Finally, Cha Chi on Acid played. I had the opportunity to speak with them before the show in the men's washroom.

They are a four-piece band from Farmland Ontario presently on tour with a final date in Truro, Nova Scotia. They had a lot of show cancellations on their way here and were really happy with the turn out, saying it was the most people they have had to see them yet. The bass player also told me a funny story about how he thought the CIA was out to get him.

Cha Chi on Acid were very energetic, fast, and loud. Although they met the criteria I have for musical tastes, I can't say I enjoyed them in the least. If horrible music is punk then they could be called that, but really, bad is bad. Most people left after they played their first few songs.

Their best tune was the Ramones' "Pinhead," which didn't sound anything like the original. Interestingly enough, the drummer for the band plays a set without a hi-hat and did a pretty good job of it.

All said the show was not all bad—there were highs and lows and at least the beer was cheap! A good way to spend a Tuesday night.

Starting next week, Bruns Entertainment will be compiling comprehensive listings of art, music, and cultural events in the Fredericton area. To submit your listings please fax (453-5073) or email (bruns@unb.ca) information to The Brunswickan, Attn: Entertainment.

• the listings •

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Shout-outs!

... to the following:

Larry Guitard
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WORD BALLOONS

I love comic books.

It's a crying shame that they are such an underrated medium of storytelling. I don't want to simply preach to the converted with this column, but want to share and express my passion for the medium with other people. Many people have preconceptions about comics, assuming they are all clichéd Archie, super-hero, and funny animal comics. But, frankly, there are as many genres of comics as there are movies.

There are great dramas such as Terry Moore's engaging *Strangers in Paradise* and Daniel Clowes' depressing yet powerful *Ghost World*. There are exciting and dark westerns such as *El Diablo* and *Preacher*. There are light-hearted comedies such as Rumiko Takahashi's gender-bending martial arts romance *Ranma* or Ben Edlund's super-hero spoof *The Tick*. I could go on, but that would really eat up space.

What I'm trying to say is that there's a lot of diversity in comics and something for just about everyone. Sure, there are a glut of super-hero comics these days; that is changing and many of the super-hero comics today are trying to twist conventions to make them new and exciting, such as *Planetary* (about a group of super-powered archeologists) and *Astro City* (which feature slice of life stories about people in a city inhabited by super-heroes).

You shouldn't be ashamed or embarrassed about picking up a comic. They are really just a medium that marries art and writing in a way that complements each other. In this column I plan to discuss some of the comics worth reading and some writers and artists you should be keeping your eye on. If you want a better understanding of the world of comics, I suggest you pick up Scott McCloud's extremely fun and intelligent look at comics entitled *Understanding Comics*. I hope you will read and enjoy this column and that you take a trip to your local comic store sometime in the near future.

• Stefan Robak

More clichéd 17th-century kung fu

The Musketeer

Stefan Robak

The Brunswickan

Ah, the Three Musketeers. A classic tale of heroism, loyalty, and adventure that's high on taste and low on fat. A tale that will be recounted for centuries, at least.

It also means that Hollywood will find new ways for it to suck. Justin Chambers (some say the new Freddie Prinze Jr.—that's not a good thing) plays D'Artagnan, the most hygienically perfect man in 17th century France.

D'Artagnan wants to become a musketeer to kill the super-mega-evil Febre (played by the only marginally evil Tim Roth). Seems that Febre, the meanest guy in the whole wide world, killed D'Artagnan's folks (cause he's evil ya know. Did I mention that?). D'Artagnan trains in sword fighting and the martial arts, although it's never really explained how, at all.

He shows up 14-years later ready to do some major booty kicking, but it seems the musketeers are all fired (or whatever they do to musketeers to make them hang around a bar and drink all day). It seems the evil cardinal wants the king defenseless so he can have him killed and rule France.

D'Artagnan also meets a lovely woman at the inn who also happens to be royalty. What are the odds?! This is probably the most annoying thing about the film. The romances are extremely clichéd and very, very uninteresting. It was probably in the original story but here it just feels tacked on. She really doesn't do anything in this film except make googly eyes at our hero and play out all the clichés, like the old "hero accidentally sees her naked scene," or

the "lets hide from the evil guys and start flirting scene." It's all very treaded ground that isn't particularly exciting. Hell, the romances in a Julia Roberts/Richard Gere movie look good compared to this!

This Febre guy is really kind of annoying. I mean he's evil and everything, but he's not terribly interesting. Sure, he kidnaps the love interest, threatens children and generally commits unruly acts but as a villain he really has no motivation other to be particularly evil. I almost expected him to close down the orphanage and tie people to railroad tracks. This would actually improve the movie immensely, especially if the people on said tracks were the main characters.

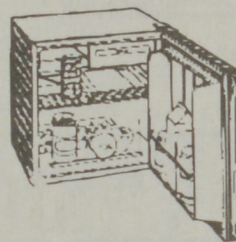
One good aspect of the movie is the martial arts scenes, but even they are a little too much. It's just that every scene where D'Artagnan jumps just looks really fake to me. And is it really humanly possible to jump from one moving horse to one that's directly ahead of the first one? Wouldn't the person have to jump at the speed the horse is running? And where does one learn the martial arts in France? I mean I'd let it go if they gave us some explanation but it's really starting to bug me. I apologize. I'm just venting.

In the end it really isn't a very good movie. The characters aren't particularly charming or interesting, the villain is a little too ridiculous and the whole movie just doesn't feel fun.

It's a shame too. I really could go for a good 17th century European kung fu movie based on a classic novel. But, if you must see one 17th century European kung fu movie based on a classic novel, don't see this one!

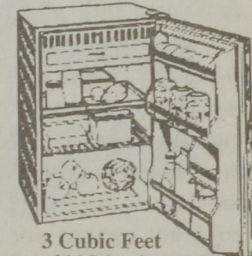
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UNB/STU Creative Arts 2001-2002

Music on the Hill

Presents

David Adams Richards and The Gryphon Trio



Wednesday, September 19, 2001

Wilmot United Church 8:00 PM

Join the first concert of our season with readings by David Adams Richards, the multi-award winning author from the Miramichi, and an electrifying performance by The Gryphon Trio which has been hailed as one of Canada's finest chamber ensembles.

David Adams Richards is one of Canada's most compelling and original writers. He has been lauded for the way in which he brings to life, in warm and passionate detail, the small, sea-facing communities of the Atlantic coast. Pianist Jamie Parker, violinist Annalee Patipatanakoon and cellist Roman Borys make up The Gryphon Trio, named for the half-lion, half-eagle creature which symbolizes the union of psychic energy and cosmic force. They are known for their integrity in interpreting the classics and are celebrated for exciting performances that stretch the senses.

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