

# STUDENT THEATRE STRIKES GLENDON

by Wendy Edwards

The Glendon Student Theatre Project presented their first production, titled *Star-Spangled Manners*. This consisted of three satirical one-act plays, which focus on the American way of life. Included were Jean-Claude van Itallie's *Almost Like Being* and *I'm Really Here*, and *Ludlow Fair* by Lanford Wilson.

In *Almost Like Being* we are introduced to the extraordinary Miss Doris Dee from Debuque. Doris Dee is an American lady who has made it big in the flashy world of show business, with top song hits like *Que Sera Sera*.

Although she has people dropping at her feet, including her incredibly subservient black maid, portrayed by Lori Isakiridis, Doris Dee refuses to let the fame and bright lights warp her sweet and downhome nature. Big wheels like Governor Knockefeller, played by Perry Mallinos, step in her path, but Doris Dee prefers her *one and only* (sigh) Rock, the

man who, like herself, just loves strawberry, chocolate and banana triple frappés from *Mango Pete's*.

Ellen Murray portrays Doris Dee very well, colourfully projecting the 'tee hee, golly gee' personality of that character. With rosy cheeks, freckles and all the trimmings, here smile bewitches, bewilders and enchants Rock (the all-American boy) - finely performed by Gord Ramsay.

*Ludlow Fair's* humour is not as lively, and has quite a different tone from the above play, dealing with the psychological problems of two roommates.

The talented Catherine Knights and Deirdre Maclean provide very enjoyable performances. They skilfully delineate their characters' mental conflicts, as well as the mixed emotions involved in their actual relationship.

In *I'm Really Here*, the toothy smiles return. This time, they're splashed on the faces of Ameri-

can tourists in *gai Paree*. Another smile exists, but it's somewhat sinister; this belongs to the gay Parisian, Rossano Brazzy, who desires the oh-so-cute American girl, Doris.

Basically, the play deals with the actor's dilemma of separating the real self from the projected image. The play is comical, but biting, and ends with a very strange twist.

Rossano Brazzy, as played by Duncan Parker, has the right combination of romantic allure, evil and madness. Ellen Murray gives a splendid performance of Doris. She convincingly emits the superficial image and mask necessary for the character. Doris' mask isn't removed, but rather dissolves tragically - only when it is too late does she realize the truth of her situation, and unfortunately this realization comes as a stab in the back.

All three plays after a night of good entertainment. Be sure to watch for future productions of the Student Theatre Project.

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