Stargazing at Theatre Glendon

Tom Jones' comedy a a naturalistic play focusing on character rather than words

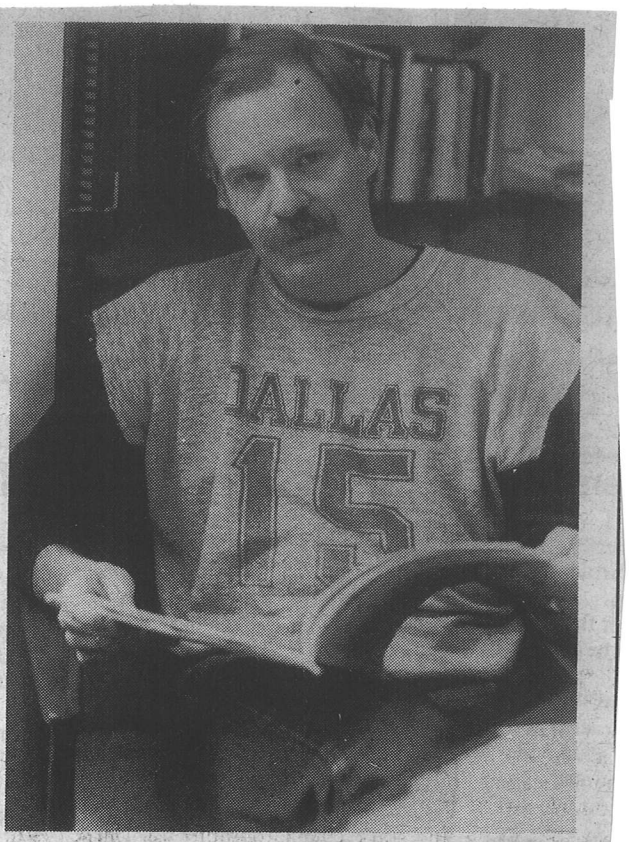
By NORA HOYER

Isolation and the inability to communicate with loved ones are the themes behind Tom Cone's play *Stargazing*, which opened at Theatre Glendon Tuesday. It's a naturalistic comedy, a comedy of character rather than words, and it's set in the north of Vancouver during recurring meteor showers.

Cone, author of *Herringbone* and *Cubistique*, lives in New York, where he writes and directs plays. But he hails from Vancouver, and the popularity of meteor gazing as a sport in his home town doubtless served as the chief inspiration for *Stargazing*.

Director Robert Wallace says he chose Cone's play for Theatre Glendon not only because it hasn't been done in Toronto before, but also because it suited the interests of his fourth-year drama class, and because it was a departure from the kind of plays he usually directs. Wallace, who teaches courses in media and drama at Glendon, has written extensively for television and radio, and he says he prefers writing to directing. But when he does direct, he has tended toward full-blown flamboyant productions rather than quiet realistic pieces, so *Stargazing* represents something new.

Wallace has mounted an ambitious production nonetheless. He wanted to create a real outdoor patio under a midnight sky as the setting, and that created problems. Another unusual aspect of the production is that one of the principal actresses, Miceline Mann, plays a dual role.



Glendon professor Robert Wallace, director of Tom Cone's play *Stargazing* currently at Theatre Glendon.

The five member cast is a mixture of veterans and new performers. Of the old hands, Peter Leleghan has worked in film, TV, and at the Shaw Festival, and Mann has been with a children's touring troupe, performed in the Simpsons-Sears festival, and has been an extra on TV and film.

So, even if it's a cloudy night, come out and do some *Stargazing* at Theatre Glendon.

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