



BOB AINSLIE, MARILYN STUART CONCENTRATE HARD ON A TRICKY DANCE STEP.

## Amateur city performers receive indoctrination

For nine talented Charlotteville amateur performers the Summer Festival is providing a thrilling indoctrination into professional theatre.

Esther Pletch is a shining example well known locally for her roles in amateur productions, she was chosen last summer to play in "Anne of Green Gables" as the flighty, sieve-minded Mrs. Spencer, the lady who brings a girl instead of a boy to Marilla and Matthew. Again east in this summer's "Anne", Mrs. Pletch, a full-time school librarian, and mother of three, had a hectic time of it combining end-of-term school work with long rehearsals in the theatre.

Four Charlottetown children who danced in "Anne" last year will also be back with the company this year. They are: Janet Farrar, 11-year-old daughter of Mr and Mrs Warren Farrar, who this year won a bronze medal for tap dancing at the P.E.I. Dance Festival, having picked up five first place ribbons;

Amanda Hancox, a 12-year-old beauty who played Dagmar in the 1965 P.E.I. Dominion Drama Festival winning play "I Remember Mama"; the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hancox, she hopes to go to England next fall for further dance and drama studies in residential school.

Palma Rhynes, an eight-year-old with an infectious grin, daughter of Mr and Mrs Morgan Rhynes and a three-year veteran of dance instruction from Shirley Burke.

Larry Brazel, 12-year-old son of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Brazel, who has won numerous medals and trophies since he began taking dance instructions four years ago.

This year Larry's brother Michael, aged eight, and another eight-year-old charmer, Julie Boswell, join the "Anne" cast for the first time. Julie, the daughter of Mr and Mrs David Boswell, has been taking ballet lessons for three years. Michael, one year.

APPRENTICES

For the first time, the theatre has added two apprentices to the

backstage and perform as extras in the shows strictly from a love of theatre and for the training and experience they'll receive.

Gracie Finlay, at 15 has already had considerable experience as a performer, culminating in her winning the best actress award in this year's provincial Dominion Drama Festival finals for her role as the miller's daughter in "Rumpelstiltskin".

Born in Sheffield, Alabama, Gracie moved with her family to Charlottetown in 1960. She has sung and played piano with considerable success in the local music festival and has been studying ballet since her childhood. At Queen Charlotte High School she joined the drama club and appeared in "Once Upon a Clothesline" in 1965. This past year she represented QCHS in a mock UN assembly held at Prince of Wales College.

Last summer she studied theatre at the summer school here at the centre on a DDF scholarship and this year, as part of her apprenticeship she will again take classes at the Atlantic Summer School of the Arts.

Dan Davan, a drafting instructor at Birchwood High School, was born in Paris and educated in England. Since coming to Canada in 1952, he has worked in the aviation industry in Charlottetown, Montreal, and many other parts of Canada.

His sole stage experience was as leading man, Uncle Chris, in the Circle Player's production of "I Remember Mama" here in 1965. He did work on sets for that company and has done publicity for the Little Theatre Guild.

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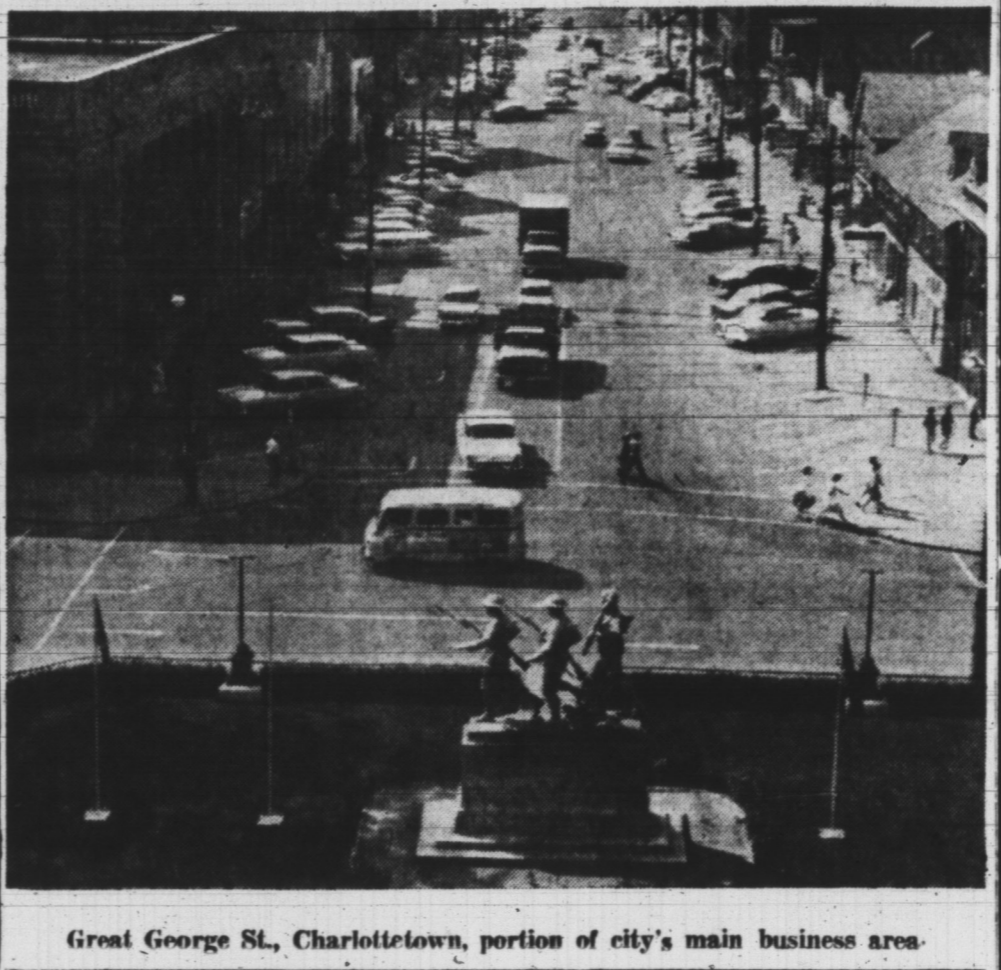
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## Smiling Father greets visitors

This year Charlottetown Summer Festival visitors will be welcomed to festival activities by "The Smiling Father", the new identifying symbol of the summer long season.

Designed by Jeff Radcliffe of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, "The Smiling Father" is now the official symbol of the Charlottetown Festival, and has been used extensively in promotion and publicity.

It is not a symbol that was simply drawn out of a hat, though the father wears one that would amply suit the purpose. When it was decided to attempt a symbol that would derive as an identifying trademark, the artist was asked to come up with something that

been famous ever since for its welcome to visitors, and this tradition is embodied in the "Charlottetown Festival" theme, "a festival of music and laughter".

Unanimously, the directors of the festival felt that the work of artists Radcliffe well and truly represented this dual theme of history and hospitality, and the "smiling father" was adopted as the trademark.

When the symbol was unveiled at a Press Conference announcing details of the 1966 season, those irresponsible festival coordinators Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster added their stamp of approval.

Said Wayne, "I like it. It's the first time that a symbol has been adopted in Canada that didn't resemble a dyspeptic beaver."

On behalf of all Islanders and the festival company, the smiling father extends his personal and hospitable invitation to an Island and a Festival of good times.



A BEAMING JAMIE RAY, PENSIVE JUDY ARMSTRONG, LEAN ON THE PIANO.

## Howard the Turtle making 3rd visit

There's an aura of stardust about Howard the Turtle. He has been the star of Razzle Dazzle, probably the most popular children's television show in Canada, for five years and has already put in two seasons with the Canadian Puppet Theatre at French, at Iowa State University and while there starred as the singing host at an International Festival of Music.

Puppeteers John and David Rapsey are the other human members of this year's company. John, a third year student at Bishop's University, was here with the theatre last summer. Brother David, who'll be a new face in town, this year was in his final year at University of Toronto and appeared regularly in the Razzle Dazzle TV special.

"Howard's Nutty Re-view" stars at Confederation Centre July 11 and will run Mondays through Saturdays until Aug. 27.

Howard could well afford to sit back and say "ho-hum".

But he's not like that at all. He's an uptight, beamy little fellow, the next-door type.

That's why he's decided to forego his vacation in the Riviera to come and entertain in Charlottetown again this summer. But with his usual modesty he denies his selfishness.

"I didn't want to go to that French beach anyway," he says. "I'm still afraid of the tiger in the life."

Howard will star in a brand new show this summer in the Centre's lecture-theatre. Once again the show will be aimed at adults as well as children, and the puppet move right out into the audience.

Once again Alex Ritouff, who

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