



"I'M YOUR TYPICAL FAT JEWISH COMIC" — LARRY HOROWITZ



DON CULLEN — FEATURE PERFORMER OF THE EVENING



GEORGE THE MOVIE MAKER SELLS NEWSPAPERS DOWN THE STREET



"I LOVE WHEN THEY USE THEIR TEETH" — LARRY HOROWITZ



achieved this goal, while at the same time has brought in international talent. Some of the feature acts have been Gene Taylor, Don Cullen, La Troupe Grotesque, Second City Touring Company, Tali Kupferberg (the avant-garde comedian who originated the "Fugs") and Bobby Kossar from New York. The backdrop lips were drawn by award winning artist San Murata. The *Yuk Yuks* Flyer is designed by comic graphic artists.

The feature act is the only paid act and the people running *Yuk Yuks* get paid "if there is money." *Yuk Yuks* is an underground operation. The admission charge is only two dollars and well worth the splurge.

The evening I was at *Yuk Yuks*, a number of "unknown comedians" were making the audience and myself laugh hysterically. The packed house contains, according to Breslin, young people, students, fairly hip people, media people including producers and agents from the U.S. and Canada.

The evening began with Larry Horowitz who began, "Hi I'm your typical fat, average, Jewish comic." Later, when he was at a loss for words, he turned towards the sensuous lips and began panting. He then retorted, "I love when they use their teeth." He continued with Canadian political awareness, "I walked up to a lady on the street and asked her what she thought of the AIB and she said she liked the pill better." Brian's final note was something Bob Neilson would probably think would be the anthem for Scarborough Students: "If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with Bullshit." (Which happened to be silkscreened on the back of his shirt.)

Jerry Bednab and Roy Starr were other performers who were sidetracking in their acts.

Before Jerry Bednab was George the Movie Maker, a very large person who sells newspapers down the street.

Mark Breslin has known George for over eight years, and said that George was in a movie. Mark calls himself a "conceptual comic of the streets". He calls George a real comic of the streets; a person with a true "gppy comic spirit". He loves George's act because he breaks all conventions of stand up comedy. George tells jokes without punchlines. He laughs and the audience laughs. Many people would call this pathetic and cruel but one must realize that comedy in context is funny. If you take the delivery and context away from any comedy, it loses its humour.

The feature for the evening was Don Cullen, who portrayed a preacher, Rev. Andrew Warhol, self explanatory, a lecture from Marshall McLuhan and an excerpt from "Beyond the Fringe" among other things.

Mark closed the evening and as they were cleaning up he was carrying the "Hook" and he said, "Well, didn't get to use it this time but maybe next time . . ."

Yuk Yuks has now begun an agency for comics called "The Funny Business" which provides full shows, acts, comedy writers and standup comedy acts for anyone that is interested.

Yuk Yuks plans to expand in the future and is trying to have Canadian and International comedy in all its forms — especially the dangerous.

Feature acts coming up will be Larry Horowitz, November 10th, Harry Russell from Starvin' Marvin's, November 17th and Nancy White a comedy folk singer, November 24th plus countless numbers of unknown comics, and who knows what will happen?

It is suggested that if you want to get a good seat that you get there at approximately 8:10 p.m. I'll certainly be a regular there.

YUK-YUK COVERAGE
W.S. HENDERSON



ROY STARR — QUICK, WITTY AND A LOT OF GROANERS



BRIANE NASIMOK — CANADA'S FOREMOST OPERATIC MUTE — RET D.

YUK YUKS YUK YUKS YUK YUKS YUK YUKS

by **Dug Rotstein**

Every Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. in the basement of the Church Street Community Centre (519 Church Street) makes a transition from a Ladies Auxiliary Bridge Club to the newest and most innovative comedy club in this country . . . Canada. *Yuk Yuks*; even the name has a small connotation towards hilarity.

As an enter, Erella Ganon and Barry Cohen, two of the finest doorpeople, are screaming in your ear. "For only two dollars we will give you absolutely free . . ." as they hand you the *Yuk Yuks* comedy flyer.

The room is long and dark; At the end stands a backdrop, on which is painted an extremely large, sensuous set of lips and teeth. From these seductive, wet lips come the words "Yuk Yuks". This backdrop explains why "Yuk Yuks" isn't called "Yap Yaps" or "Ha Ha's" or any other name for that matter.

The audience is rumbling in anticipation. The music from the speakers adds to the rumbling. The 25 cent coffee



THE YUK-YUKS BACKDROP DONE BY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST SAN MURATA



MARK BRESLIN PRESENTS SOUVENIR BOOKLET OF QUEEN TO AUDIENCE MEMBER JENNIFER

adds to the rumbling of the stomachs, as does Michael Zweig the coffee server.

A hush is heard. Joel Asher, stage manager and man-about-town, introduces Mark Breslin, the Master of Ceremonies and the man who pulls the strings.

Mark Breslin is quick, witty and sharp. The audience is laughing already. One overenthusiastic audience member, Jennifer, is asked onto the stage. As she turns red, she is presented the first prize of the evening: a souvenir booklet about the Queen (of the British Empire). "Jennifer puts out!" says Mark. Mark Breslin is the 24 year old director of *Yuk Yuks*. He is the former director of Music and Theatre at Harbourfront and did the Ryerson Riot Show '76 which "broke all records and literally caused a riot". The Riot Show, supposedly Ryerson's end of year cabaret, turned into a comedy of "death in the city" and "urban paranoia".

When Harbourfront lost its funds because of "bureaucratic misbandling",

Michael, for example, is the producer of Saturday Night 'Live', the very successful late night television show. Saturday Night was offered to the CBC and rejected. Therefore Lorne Michaels had to take the comedy show south of the border. The CBC obviously lacked courage.

Hopefully *Yuk Yuks* will provide the vehicle for the type of comedy that the CBC is afraid to use, and thus set a precedent and begin a trend; to bring back our talent northward and use what is still here in Canada to its capacity.

Yuk Yuks has partially



"JENNIFER PUTS OUT" — MARK BRESLIN, M.C.

Mark came up with a new concept for a comedy club.

"The Canadian Comedy scene is now at the point where Canadian Folk Music was in 1961 . . . There is a surplus of talent and no place to go. New York has the Improv and Catch a Rising Star, and now Canada has *Yuk Yuks*. *Yuk Yuks* is the only club of its kind in Canada."

Mark feels that Canadian Comedy is in its infant stage. Therefore *Yuk Yuks* is a vehicle for all types of comedy.

"These are troubled times and comedy seems to thrive on some kind of uneasiness among the general populace." — Breslin.

He feels that the comedians must be as diplomatic as possible in order to bring some truth and light. In other words, anyone can go to *Yuk Yuks* and perform.

However, there are safeguards. If a comedian is bad, he may win "The Worst Comedian of the Evening Award" or they may get the "Hook" or the "Comedian Penalty Box" or any sort of outlandish punishment; all parts of a number of visual tricks which could happen at any time.



MARK BRESLIN