



# NEWSLETTER

ALGONQUIN ARTS COUNCIL "In the Old Station"

April - May 1993

BANCROFT

The Algonquin Arts Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

## "Foggy Bottom Enthralls Audience"

Theatre Beyond Words production of "Night Train to Foggy Bottom" on Feb 15 so enthralled the audience that it remained entranced, fixed to its seats for several minutes when the house lights were turned on and intermission music played ending the first act. The intermission music continued. The air was charged with the glow of expectation. The sculptor Thad's dream fingered into the reality of North Hastings' High School auditorium. Not a pin sounded. Not a breath expired. Slowly as ice cracking on a springtime lake members of the audience realized that intermission had arrived.

No other attraction sponsored by the Arts Councils' Performing Arts Committee has so captured an audience. Where does dream end and reality begin? The stage's edge did not demark the boundaries. Each member in that theatre rode the subway to Foggy Bottom. It is interesting to note that maps of the U.S. Capital show a 'Foggy Bottom' subway station on the campus of George Washington University.

"Night Train to Foggy Bottom" is a reality fantasy/reality performed on many levels simultaneously. Thad the puppet views life as a child with a domineering, efficiency obsessed father, a large doll mother who becomes a piece of furniture, and grandmother another large doll at times trying to break free. As a dreaming sculptor, Thad sees these characters in their artificial characterizations while the puppet, Thad sees them as large humans. "Foggy Bottom" is also performed as a theatrical production through the irony of an audience watching a play. One more step removed I watch as part of an audience seated in an auditorium watching a play.

...and the second act ended. I wanted return ticket to "Foggy Bottom."

R. D. Rennie.