



## Peter Pan Lives

"I won't grow up!" exclaims Peter Pan. Thus echoes Jan Williams, Senior theatre major at St. Andrews College, whose puppet production of Peter Pan will be held Saturday.

Jan has singlehandedly produced fourteen puppets, (including Peter's shadow) for a production of "Peter Pan," a fantasy play written by J.M. Barrie. She will perform her own adaption of the Broadway musical version of the play next week in several of Laurinburg's elementary schools. A performance for the public has been scheduled in St. Andrews Liberal Arts Auditorium on Saturday, November 1, at 2 p.m.

The production is Jan's project for "Special Problems in Technical Theatre," at upper level theatre course at St. Andrews. Majoring in Theatre is somewhat ironic for Jan, who insists that she is a terrible actor. Those who have seen her various performances seem to disagree with her self-estimation. Puppet shows are Jan's release for acting out her favorite roles; for Jan, Peter Pan is a natural.

Jan not only built the puppets - she designed the stage and the scenery, re-wrote the script to adapt to puppets, directed the play, and is one of the five puppeteers.

Jan says she became interested in puppets two summers ago while employed by the City of Greenville, S.C. Parks and Recreation Department, where she worked in a puppet workshop. "They told me to make puppets, and I did," she says.

At the end of the summer her troupe of puppeteers performed in competition with fifteen other parks and recreation shows; and they placed second.

The puppets Jan creates are a variation of rod puppets. A rod is connected to the puppets head, which is formed using cloth strips in a paper mache technique. The body, made from cloth and stuffing, is suspended from the head and controlled from below. There is another rod of light but sturdy wire connected to one hand for movement and one connected to the feet to simulate flight. With these rods the puppeteer has greater control over the puppets' movements than he does with marionettes, which are suspended by strings from above. (Despite her alleged control, this writer noticed a slight movement in Peter during my interviews with Jan, and once while my back was turned I could have sworn - but it must have been my imagination!)

Upon seeing the marvelous puppets Jan has created, one might be tempted to question the fact that Jan actually made them. After meeting Jan, the question is easily resolved - she didn't! They made her!

During the creation stages Peter took on an uncanny likeness to Carol Channing. At this point, Jan considered changing the script to "Hello Dolly," but Dolly would have looked pretty funny in an elf suit.

After graduation from St. Andrews, Jan would like to continue her work with puppets. She has kept in contact with her fellow puppeteers of Greenville, and rumor has it that a puppet factory is in the makings. Jan and her friends would like to build puppets on commission for elementary schools, and recreation and entertainment productions. She is also interested in organizing a troupe of travelling puppeteers.

Jan's puppet show is one of many student theatre productions in the works at St. Andrews. Two original plays by St. Andrews students will be performed on November 2 and 3. A Chinese children's play is scheduled on November 8, at 2 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Auditorium at St. Andrews, and the Greek tragedy "Antigone" will be performed November 20-23.

The St. Andrews Theatre Department extends its invitation to all ages to enjoy the many realms of entertainment scheduled this month.

-Billy Howard



## Gotcha!

**BALLERINA DOREEN WELLS**, playing the Snow Fairy in a London performance of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" earlier this year, was mis-caught by her partner, Patrice Bart of the Paris Ballet, as she made one of those seemingly effortless leaps audiences love. And did she ever yell.....

## Craig Dennis Show on View

The Vardell Gallery at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg is currently showing an exhibit of prints and drawings by Craig Dennis, a 24-year old artist from Lansing, Michigan. The exhibit opened October 19 and will run until November 6.

Dennis received his BFA degree from the University of Michigan in 1972, and two years later earned an MFA from Ohio State University. He is presently an Art Instructor at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.

St. Andrews Art Professor Bob Tauber says of the works in the St. Andrews exhibit, "There's an apocalyptic

quality to most of these. They make use of a composite of images of de-anthropomorphized man and nature, and I get the feeling that Dennis is pleading with us, through these works, not to let our past be de-anthropomorphized. He suggests a sort of nostalgia for our human past in light of an inhuman technological present."

"There is a definite sense of pessimism in these works," Tauber continues, "but it's a witty and cunning pessimism; it's not maudlin or gruesome."

The 14 works in the exhibit are highly complex, skilled

productions. They are large, multi-color, multi-technical works, and some are done in as many as 12 colors.

"An interesting aspect of Dennis' work," notes Tauber, "is that it's filled with symbolic minutiae. He's well-informed and shows a keen awareness of literature, philosophy and art history. His hero seems to be da Vinci, but a da Vinci who is no longer a man - who has been turned into a machine."

Dennis' works have been shown at nineteen exhibitions since 1974. He is the winner of numerous awards for his work.

## Review Sets Contest

The Greensboro (N.C.) Review, with the assistance of the North Carolina Arts Council, has announced a literary contest with a maximum prize of \$500 to be awarded to a current resident of North Carolina.

Entries in the Contest may be either fiction or poetry. Fiction entries may run 2,500

to 6000 words in length; poetry submissions should be 10 to fifteen pages in length. Each contestant may submit one entry in duplicate; all entries must be previously unpublished.

All entries must be post-marked on or before January 15th 1976. Judging will be anonymous; all entries should be submitted in a self-addressed stamped envelope,

but no name should be included on the manuscript.

The Greensboro Review will reserve the right to publish work submitted in the contest. Entries should be sent to the N.C. Arts Council Contest, c/o Greensboro Review, English Department, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, N.C. 27412.

Judges will have no connection with the University.