

"Clear Light revolts, horrifies..."

The above is the headline in the Toronto Star of last October. "Clear Light" is a play by Mike Hollingsworth, about whom your editor knows nothing. His photograph shows him with shoulder length hair and clean shaven face, a young fellow in his twenties. Being in Toronto, Canada, he could be of the Wexford or Wicklow Hollingsworths. We wrote the theatre where the play opened - and closed. No reply yet. Urjo Karede, the reporter, gave two of his columns to the subject of the "horrific play." It opened at the Toronto Free Theatre in October, 1973. It ran just two weeks and was closed by the "morality squad" of the police!

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It is based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead, in part. It concerns five characters who live in the utmost degradation; moral, physical and psychological emptiness. All kinds of sex, violence, and filth! Yet, says Urjo Karede the commentator, the play "must be performed," and "it succeeds." The content of the thing apparently doomed it from the start. Judging by Karede's description, it shouldn't have been written. Shame on you, Mike Hollingsworth ... whoever you are. Even if you did write "Strawberry Fields," as the Star says. The producer is a man named Martin Kinch. This is a real coincidence. As you Wexfords know, the Kinch family is related to the Arklow Hollingsworths. Is this a conspiracy?

The morality squad submitted to Kinch and friends a list of the scenes which were offensive and would have to be cut. Kinch decided to close on grounds that the cuts would make the play impossible to perform. Under the provisions of the Criminal Code, the play was obscene, and if further performances were carried out, criminal charges would have been laid. (Courtesy Evelyn Purvis Earle, Gananoque, Ont.)