

THEATRE

This time around the theme's religion

By HERBERT WHITTAKER

Martin Frick and Almeta Speaks are really going way out in their Old Angelo's revue, *Get Your Eye Off That Sparrow*. Pushing past the current trends of eroticism and nudism, the pair has chosen religion as the theme of their show.

"Church is the whole point of our lives," holds Frick, "whether we recognize it or not, reject it or not. In a way, Ingmar Bergman has supplied the basis to our approach, although there is little resemblance between his films and our mixed-media presentation."

But neither Frick nor his partner is putting the audience on with the religious motif. The mime and the jazz-blues singer were brought together by their discovery of a common background in religion.

Frick's father is a Lutheran minister in Chicago, and he himself studied for the ministry, though he dropped out in



Martin Frick

his last year and was not ordained. His interest has turned to theatre, particularly mime, during his last year. He has since studied with Henryk Tomaszewski, of the Polish Mime Theatre, with Bianca Rogge and Eli Riil.

His partner, well known as a singer, grew into her own style from a combined Baptist and Pentacostal background. Having a parent in each sect involved her in both and inevitably in religious music.

"We are using non-religious material, although it is always built around the double images of the eye and the sparrow. Incidentally, Almeta sings the old gospel song, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, from which our title derives."

"We are using Rod McKuen's poem, *Brownstone*, as well as selections from Noel Coward, Jules Feiffer, Antony Newley. Also, Russ Little is writing original music and lyrics for the production. One item deals with the saints who were demoted by Vatican proclamation.

Get Your Eye Off That Sparrow involves Coleen Collins and Alan Mayers. It opens at Old Angelo's on Tuesday.

"Do you hate culture?" Asking and answering the question at McMaster University Nov. 7 will be Canadian culture's old friend, Sir Tyrone Guthrie. The godfather of Stratford will be delivering the first of a new series of annual lectures.

A backers' party for Spring Thaw is being held this evening by the Roward Bateman and John Uren, who hold an option on the annual Canadian revue. They are offering 60 units of shares of \$1,000 each to prospective angels.

Among the contributors, Bateman and Uren have lined up, they report, are Galt McDermott, composer, Hair, Ian and Sylvia and Joni Mitchell. No decisions about casting have yet been made.