Waiting for Splinters' 'Flowers of Gold'

ARTS

By HELEN MUSA

YES. "Flowers of Gold" is the name of an incendiary device popular with the IRA. But No. That's not necessarily the connection with the performance of the same name currently being rehearsed at the old Kingston Bus Depot by Splinters Theatre of Spectacle. That's what chief pyrotechnician Patrick Troy tells this column, anyway. For the average passer-by, however, the huge sign on Wentworth Avenue looks suspiciously as if it has gunpowder inside it.

☐ In a display of theatrical and visual arts overkill, Splinters are this time acting as umbrella for a performance from December 16 to 19 involving the groups *P. Harness, Shoot Like a Girl, Waiting Women, Terra Inc., The Company, Aktion Surreal* and *Pyromancers*. Who won't be there?

☐ Several land miles away, Neil Roberts, of Galerie Constantinople, in Uriarra Road, Queanbeyan, is preparing *14 Nautical Miles*, an exhibition opening at 6pm this Friday. Bearing in mind that this purports to show "24 artists in a line" the title is tantalising.

☐ And many more miles away both nautical and philosophical, is Frank McKean's stagey fashion show of lingerie at the Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union Club, from 7 to 9pm tonight. Frank is the producer-entrepreneur and promises this lingerie show will be a "fully-sized theatrical production". His own designs will feature among others.

☐ I put my head in the door yesterday at the "Towards a Creative City" presentation by Charles Landry, one of Britain's leading cultural planning consultants. A joint initiative of the National Capital planning Authority and the Arts Council of the ACT, Landry's visit focused less on the identification of cultural resources within arts bureaucracies than on those elsewhere. As Landry puts it, "creativity resides in all sorts of local authority departments and other walks of life".

☐ Overheard as I left the packed launch of miniatures installed in CD's at the Ben Grady Gallery in Kingston last Friday, a well-oiled local bystander, "What does he think he's got in there with all those people, Rubens or something?" Maybe not, but the enterprising Grady deserves some credit for a bright idea: a clientele in recession mode might just come at purchasing a stunning miniature where a major canvas could be out of reach.

☐ An exciting night is planned this evening at Olim's Hotel Carlton Lounge when radio 2XX holds its annual awards and presentations.

"Radio with Attitude" as they often tag themselves, are bound to have awards with attitude too.

For those readers who never had the chance to turn on, tune in or even drop out, here it is.

Sixteen members of "The Tribe" grace the stage for the archetypal rock musical, *Hair*, which opens its doors tonight at 8pm.