

# Carole Beers



## 'Samuel' has ups and downs

"The Ups and Downs of Samuel Frog," children's musical by U. W. student R. Allen Paris, was premiered by Seattle Youth Theater in two shows yesterday at McEwen Theater in the Museum of History and Industry.

Seattle Youth Theater, sponsored by the Y. W. C. A. and partially funded by the Mayor's Office Youth Division, provides employment and educational recreation for Seattle-area youth. The summer work-study program focuses on the needs of young playwrights and composers to have their works produced, and offers performing artists training and experience.

"SAMUEL FROG" is the second children's musical by R. Allen Paris (he wrote

"The Wizard's Gift"), and one among some half-dozen shows produced by SYT since its founding in 1970. It is an interesting and often exciting production; the costumes designed by Dennis Bergum and the choreography by Mark Morris are first-professional quality (the costumes of the shark-wizard and the lobster add a great deal to the show's eye appeal).

The difficulties are not with the production, but with the writing. Too many characters with too many problems obfuscate matters. Because so much time and dialogue are required to straighten out all the tangled plot threads, the play goes on too long (about 90 minutes) for a children's show. The audience at the second show yesterday squirmed and squeaked after the first 60 minutes.

TO SUM UP: three animals have been changed into weird creatures by a gremlin who stole a magic wand (which subsequently broke) from a wicked witch who knows two ugly sisters who want to be made beautiful. A fisherman goes with the creatures, the sisters, the gremlin and the witch to find magic to make everyone happy. They all encounter a wicked shark and lobster, not to mention an entire guard unit and corps-de-ballet . . . and . . . well, suffice it to say, they all go to the seashore and live happily ever after.

But they sure take their sweet time getting there!

The music, by Jovathan Fields, is a nice try (very rock-oriented), but monotonous. Almost anything would have been better than repetitive rock progressions.

"Samuel Frog" plays at 11 a. m. and 2 p. m. Thursdays through Saturdays until August 22.

## Free band concerts set for Sunday

Three free band concerts are scheduled for Seattle-area listeners this Sunday.

The McChord Air Force Base Band will present a 30-minute concert at 2:15 p. m. at the Chittenden Locks in Ballard. Fred L. Mike Bankhead will conduct the band in a program of marches and Broadway and film songs.

A band concert in the park, presented by the King County Arts Commission, the King County Dept. of Parks and the Renton Musician's Union, will be offered at 2 p. m. Sunday in Steel Lake Park, 2410 S. 212th, in Federal Way, and repeated at 7 p. m. in Marymoor Park, 10th Lake Sammamish Parkway N.E. in Redmond.

The program will include marches and selections from "My Fair Lady."