

not about the Highlands, it does have a Highland thread and I'm looking forward to seeing how it's received by an Inverness audience," she said.

The other six plays in the programme have been written by Marjory Callender, Inverness; Gordon Urquhart, Culbokie; Iain

"Song" was on last, so I was really in the mood by the time the curtain went up and it wasn't as nerve-racking as it might have been."

Carol — who works for The Bridg'it Venture at Borlum Farm, Drumadrochit, helping people with learning difficulties

ished short-story writer and winner of Moray Firth Radio's playwriting competition.

"The Man from the Highlands", her first stage play, was developed with the aid of professionals from the Traverse and performed throughout the Highlands — and at her old school. "The pupils of

liked, but I never stopped and I kept in touch with the Traverse," she said.

"My ambition now is to have a full-length play performed and I have ideas for a script in my mind — not that the Traverse have asked for one, but I might just drop a few hints that I'm writing one when I see them tomorrow."

Davis, and some of Jamaica's top reggae musicians, Monty approached the project from two angles — adding jazz elements to the classic reggae style of Marley's music and recasting others in pure jazz style.

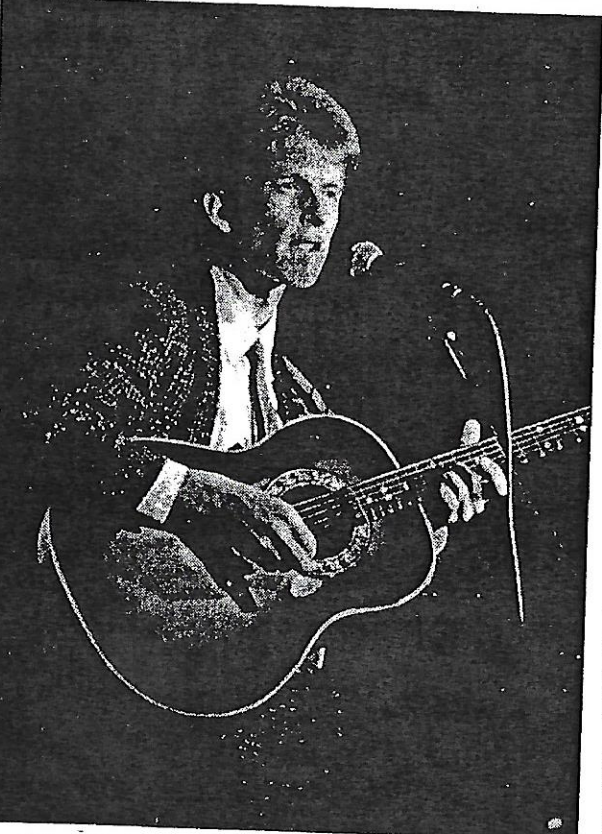
"I didn't want to make everything the same," he explained. "For me the piano is the ultimate instrument, it can express melody, harmony and rhythm and sometimes I'd rely on that to express the music rather than use the reggae musicians. At other times I'd get my bass player to do

shared so many dates with him.

"He personified a level of performance, authority and what jazz is all about. When he played, he gave you goose-bumps. He was still performing a few weeks before he died — and not for one second did anybody sense anything wrong. To me, his death signifies the end of an era.

"It's an obligation and a responsibility to keep the music going — and to evidence some of what my illustrious forebears gave me every time I get on the bandstand."

Healing power of song revealed



□ Ian White — just returned from Nashville.

HER faith proved such a comfort at a time of family tragedy that an aspiring teenage singer joined a gospel group instead of a rock band. She went on to become a Country & Western star in her native Canada and was four times nominated for a JUNO, Canada's Grammy — but, three years ago, grappling with vulnerability and a dysfunctional family, Kelita decided to return to her musical roots.

On Saturday, the diminutive Alberta farm girl whose parents could not have foreseen how apt their choice of name would prove to be — it comes from The Book of Nehemiah and means "little one" — makes her Inverness debut with Ian White, an ordained Church of Scotland minister who is top of the evangelical pops.

He is making his fourth appearance at Eden Court and has established a large local following that bridges generation gaps and Kelita will open the concert which is being supported by local churches and follows Ian's visit to Nashville where he launched his latest EMI album, "Pre-Revival Days" last week.

"I've been singing full-time for 14 years and this album — which was recorded live in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh — is the first I've had released in the States," he said. "It's great to get such a break and I'm thrilled about it.

"I'm also very excited at touring with Kelita. We met when I was touring Canada earlier this year and I was so impressed by her performance, I invited her to support me at Eden Court."

Kelita, who launched a three-week tour of Scotland and Northern Ireland last Friday, is a contemporary of k. d. lang and hired an unknown Shania Twain as a backing singer on her second album. She has also appeared with Glenn Campbell, Reba MacEntire and Randy Travis.

Her song "New Love" was voted Single of the Year by readers of Country Music News and she recorded the official song of the Winter Olympics in Calgary and in 1994 her duet with Terry Kelly won a Canadian Country Music Association award.

Launching a musical ministry was not accomplished without some personal doubt. "When I saw myself going in this direction a few years ago, I thought 'Am I wearing my heart too much on my sleeve?' — I wondered if people would be put off — but the exact opposite has happened," she revealed. "After a concert, people tell me how much they appreciate my transparency and honesty.

"I'm not just performing; a lot more is happening. God is moving, I'm healing and, through my music, I'm encouraging my audience to let the healing begin in their own lives."



□ Kelita — earned a string of country awards.

Scotland INV, COVIAZ 26. 10. 99

Scotland UK

after 6pm

Tel. 01463 714785

Harbour Road • Inverness
Tel. (01463) 222150