

News of the arts

Tap dancers at Met

The National Tap Dance Company of Canada will perform at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York on April 4.

The five-member company has been invited for the twenty-first annual Ball in the Opera House, which this year focuses on Canadian contributions to the arts. The Ball, under the patronage of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who will attend the late-night performance, is a fund-raising event for the benefit of the Metropolitan Opera Association.

The National Tap Dance Company, which was founded in 1976 by William Orłowski and Stephen Diamond, will present several short works from their repertoire. The company is best known for its children's production of *The Tin Soldier*, which was most recently presented in Toronto last December.

Lemieux dance prize awarded for first time

Robert Desrosiers, a dancer choreographer from Toronto, is the first winner of the Jacqueline Lemieux Prize. Mr. Desrosiers received his award from Mavor Moore, Canada Council chairman, following the opening performance of the new Theatre Ballet of Canada — a performance dedicated to the late Jacqueline Lemieux.

Born in 1953 in Montreal, Robert Desrosiers graduated from the National Ballet School in 1971 and joined the National Ballet Company for a year. He went to France in 1973-74, where he performed with the Felix Blaska Company. On his return to Canada, he worked with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and the Contemporary Dance Theatre of Montreal, and Ballet Ys in Toronto. After a season with London's Lindsay Kemp Company, and a season with the Toronto Dance Theatre, he presented a program of his own choreographic works at Harbourfront, Toronto, in the spring and fall of 1980.

The Jacqueline Lemieux Prize is named after the late co-founder of the Entre-Six dance company, a company which amalgamated last year with Ballet Ys to form Theatre Ballet of Canada. The \$1,000 award is given to the most deserving candidate among those who receive individual dance grants each year from the Canada Council.

Archives mark IYDP

The Public Archives of Canada is presenting an exhibition of photographs, entitled *The Magic Word*, to mark the International Year of Disabled Persons.



Photograph of members of the Ark, 1973 by John Reeves.

The 22 photographs in the exhibit were taken by John Reeves in 1973. They document the various activities of *L'Arche* (The Ark), a community home for the mentally handicapped established in France in 1964 by Jean Vanier, son of former Canadian Governor-General Georges Vanier. According to Lilly Koltun, an archivist from the National Photography Collection, "Reeves's candid photographs reveal a system in which almost as many handicapped people as non-handicapped live together in a community of spirit; furthermore, they explore Vanier's new synonym for the magic word of love — *L'Arche*".

Born in Burlington, Ontario in 1938, John Reeves studied photography at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. Over the years his talent has earned him publication in a number of major Canadian and international magazines, ranging from *Time* to *Canadian Architect*. His photo stories on the famous in cultural and political life have been among his most successful achievements. Winner of numerous graphic arts awards and honours, he was elected to the Royal

Academy of Arts in 1975, and four years later became a member of the Academy's Council. In 1973, he visited *L'Arche* where he took the opportunity to record scenes representative of this unique community.

L'Arche's tremendous success resulted in the establishment of similar homes in communities throughout the world, including the Alleluia House in Ottawa. Its directors, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Charbonneau officially opened the exhibition *The Magic Word*, which is open to the public until June 2.

Indian art centre planned

The federal government has announced a \$300,000 federal grant to the Thunder Bay National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Thunder Bay, Ontario to establish a centre for Indian Art.

The grant, being provided by the National Museums of Canada will go towards the addition of display, storage and related facilities to constitute a centre for Indian Art as an addition to the National Exhibition Centre.

In addition to funding support from the federal government for the NEC's new Centre for Indian Art, Wintario and the City of Thunder Bay will also provide financial assistance for the project along with a private fund-raising campaign which has already achieved half its goal.

Arts groups get grants

The Canada Council has approved \$238,800 in grants for 20 arts organizations and artists.

Among those receiving funds are: Kaleidoscope Theatre Productions, for its tour of *About Free Lands*, to complete a plan developed with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature; Maureen Forrester, to launch performing arts series in several small communities in southern Ontario; the Toronto Dance Theatre, for its return visit to western Canada; the folk music group Stringband, for its first tour to the Maritimes; the Théâtre national pour enfants/Les Pissenlits, with a tour of *Icare* by Roland Lepage, to Ontario and New Brunswick; and one of Canada's three major professional choirs, the Tudor Singers of Montreal, for their next tour throughout Ontario.