

STRATFORD 1972

Governor-General Roland Michener and Mrs. Michener attended the opening performances of *As You Like It* and *Lorenzaccio* at the Stratford Festival Theatre on June 5 and 6 and were also present at the traditional gala in the theatre foyers, promenades and terrace.

LEAR TO LORENZO

Stratford's twentieth season includes sixteenth century classical drama and première productions of works by Canadian writers. The four productions at the Festival Theatre are representative of four centuries of drama, ranging from the Jacobean period to eighteenth century England and to nineteenth century France.

Shakespeare's *King Lear* has been called the greatest of all tragedies and, it has been said, "remains in our memory lit by bursts of lightning" – a powerful and moving figure engulfed by forces he cannot control. Stratford's production, which opened on June 7, features William Hutt in the title role and is directed by David William.

As You Like It, a play far removed from *Lear's* sombre realm, is the Bard's one experiment in the pastoral form. It was written between the histories and tragedies, leading Edward Dowden to observe that Shakespeare "was himself in his Forest of Arden" when he wrote the play, having sent "his imagination into the woods to find repose...refreshment, a sunlight tempered by forest boughs". William Hutt directs Stratford's 1972 production of this delightful romantic comedy.

Alfred de Musset's *Lorenzaccio* introduces a great classic of nineteenth century French theatre to English-speaking audiences. The play poses universal questions about sophisticated political power structures – not the least being how to change them, a theme of particular relevance for North American audiences in 1972. In casting Pat Galloway in the title role, director Jean Gascon follows a tradition begun in 1896 when Sarah Bernhardt played the role of Lorenzo in the first production of the play at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre in Paris.

Opening on July 25 at the Festival Theatre will be *She Stoops to Conquer*, the high-spirited eighteenth-century comedy that won for Oliver Goldsmith the distinction of having written "the best play of his time". Michael Bawtree directs the production.

TV DOCUMENTARY FILM

An hour-long documentary in colour to commemorate the twentieth season of the Stratford Festival was broadcast coast to coast over the CBC television network on June 4. The film, *Stratford 20 Years Young*, was narrated by William Hutt.

The director, Michael Rothery, and his camera

crew started filming late last summer with segments of *Volpone* and *There's One in Every Marriage*. They travelled in Canada, Britain and the U.S. to interview some of the people who are part of the Festival's history – such people as Christopher Plummer, for many seasons a leading member of the acting company; Alan Bates, who played the role of Richard III in 1967 and Kate Reid, a distinguished Canadian actress with strong Stratford ties forged in many seasons on the Festival stage.

Some footage filmed in Belfast in 1969 which has never been seen before, with Stratford's first Artistic Director, the late Sir Tyrone Guthrie, was incorporated into the program. And there were a few nostalgic memories brought on by a sequence showing Alec Guinness in the tent theatre, as rehearsals progressed toward the first opening night, July 13, 1953.

Artistic Director Jean Gascon spoke for Stratford today and the film crew sought out such long-time associates of the Festival as Tanya Moiseiwitsch, who designed the thrust stage for the Festival Theatre, and Michael Langham, for 12 years Artistic Director.

Music was by Louis Applebaum, who has written the music for 27 Stratford productions since that first season.



CANADA'S FIRST OLYMPIC TORCH AWARDS

Two Ottawa-born "bright particular stars" in the Canadian sports firmament – the former Barbara Ann Scott (now Mrs. King of Chicago) and the former Nancy Green of Rossland, British Columbia (now Mrs. Raine of Montreal), were honoured last month, at a lunch given by the City of Ottawa as outstanding performers in the Winter Olympics. Mrs. King (left), who won the women's world figure-skating championship in 1948, and Mrs. Raine, who became the world's top female skier in 1968, are shown holding the first Olympic Torch awards ever presented in Canada.