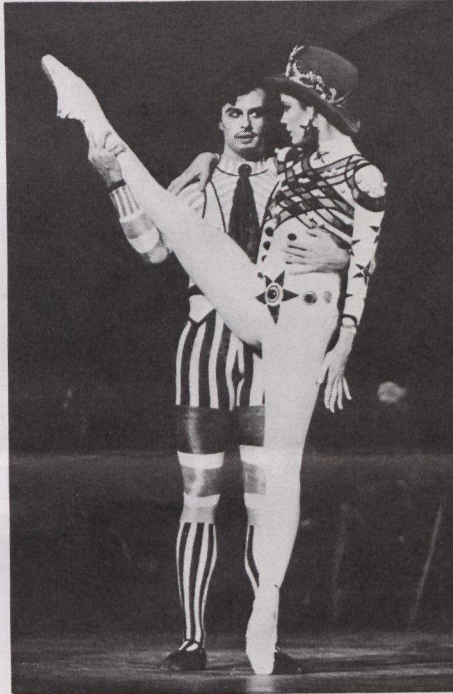


# News of the arts

## Ballet stars in China

Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn, principal dancers with the National Ballet of Canada, are visiting China, giving demonstrations and lectures in Shanghai and Peking. While in Shanghai, Frank Augustyn is expected to perform his work entitled *Personal Essay*, which is danced to a tape recording of his voice. For the visit the audio portion of the dance, produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, has been translated into Chinese. The two dancers, who spent two days in Tokyo, before travelling to China, were expected to make a four-day stop-over in that city before returning to Canada. The trip is being sponsored by the Department of External Affairs.

Before travelling to China, Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn received honorary degrees at the autumn convocation of McMaster University in Hamilton. At the conclusion of the graduation ceremonies they performed a dance as their convocation message.



Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn in the National Ballet of Canada production of *Elite Syncopations*.

## Canadians on French radio

Recordings of Parisian radio programs in which Canadians took part are now available in the form of cassettes.

*Dialogues de France Culture*, a series begun by Radio France in 1973, features people from abroad in conversation with those from France. A whole program is allotted to two personalities who discuss a subject of mutual interest.

Eleven Canadians participated in the series in March this year. Included were Canadian Ambassador to France, Gérard Pelletier, who spoke with Claude Julien, Editor of *Monde diplomatique* on the topic "Myths and realities of Frenchmen and Canadians"; and Paul Lacoste, Rector of the University of Montreal, who conversed with Roger Mallet, Chancellor of the Universities of Paris, on the theme "The University in Question". Others were: Keith Spicer; Charles Perrault; Marcel Pepin; Louis Sabourin; Marie-Andrée Bertrand; Paul Normandeau; John Meisel; Gérard Bergeron; and Jacques Grandmaison.

More details may be obtained from Yolande Lefevre, Canadian Cultural Centre, 5 rue de Constantine, Paris 750007, France.

## Surprise gift boosts Indian art campaign

A campaign to buy back British Columbia's native Indian art has resulted in a welcome surprise — the donation of more than 100 pieces of nineteenth-century Haida carvings.

As part of its \$500,000 "buy-back" campaign, the provincial museum already had picked up similar pieces, carved from argillite, an extremely hard black volcanic rock found in the Queen Charlotte Islands where the Haida Indians lived.

Those purchases apparently inspired the donation, Peter McNair, ethnology curator at the museum, said.

Neither he nor other museum officials would provide information on the value of the gift or the identity of the donor.

However, other art dealers estimate that the carvings would be worth at least \$1,000 each and "could be worth a lot more depending on the carver".

The donation was a big boost for the provincial museum's campaign to buy back B.C. Indian art, much of which was stolen, confiscated or sold for a pittance earlier this century.

Using \$500,000 of lottery funds earmarked for the campaign, the museum ac-

quired hundreds of pieces through auction houses and agents in New York and London, and from private collectors. Some pieces were purchased from Indians.

The museum's purchases included a Tsimishian mask from the 1870s, several Nootka masks and a host of other artifacts, including about 40 argillite carvings.

## Stratford plans choir, film

A 32-member youth choir, to be formed next spring, will add a new dimension to the Stratford Festival, artistic director Robin Phillips, announced recently.

The choir, conducted by Robert Cooper, will serve three purposes, as a training school in voice and stage movement, as a performing group, and as a pool of players with which to supplement the casts of Stratford's major plays.

The festival is expected to announce that it has arranged the financing for a major addition to the Avon Theatre downtown, where new workshops, rehearsal studios, and film and television production facilities will be located.

Mr. Phillips is also expected to announce the appointment of a director for Stratford's first major film based on its hit production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, with William Hutt as the imperious old dowager Lady Bracknell.

## Filmlan unveils three new films

Filmlan International Incorporated, a Canadian production corporation operating out of Montreal and Toronto, has announced that it will produce three films this year with a combined budget of \$12 million.

The first film to be shot, *Hog Wild*, is described as a "youth-oriented action comedy" and will be directed by Les Rose.

The second film, *Dirty Tricks*, began shooting in Montreal, August 13. Directed by Alvin Rakoff, the movie is described as a romantic comedy-thriller based on the novel *The Glendower Legacy*.

Filmlan's other 1979 production is *Scanners*, a science-fiction thriller written and directed by David Cronenberg, director of *The Brood*.