

## Medical films take prizes

Two Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television programs have won awards at the John Muir Medical Film Festival in the United States.

*Reconnective Surgery*, from *The Nature of Things* series with David Suzuki, was named best film on microsurgery. *David*, from the series *Man Alive*, won in the category, best film on special people.

*Reconnective Surgery*, filmed in Canada and China, was produced by Michael Bennett and directed by James Murray, executive producer of *The Nature of Things*. It was written by William Whitehead.

*David*, winner of ten other international awards, is about David McFarlane, a young man with Down's syndrome. The film was produced, directed and written by Tom Kelly.

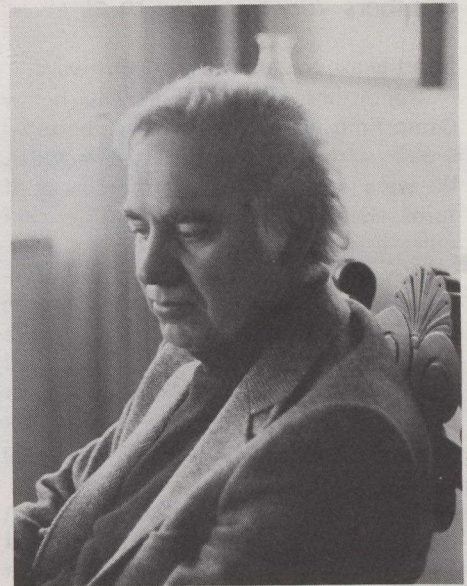
The CBC was the only broadcasting organization to win more than one award.

## Canada-Australia award

Fiction writer Leon Rooke has been presented the 1981 Canada-Australia Literary Award which is given alternately each year to Canadian and Australian writers and includes \$3 000 (Cdn.) and a trip to Australia.

Designed to familiarize Canadians and Australians with each other's writers, the award is made for the writer's total production rather than for a single work and there are no restrictions on genre — novelists, playwrights and poets are eligible. The country receiving the award nominates six writers from which a jury from the other country chooses a winner.

In Canada the award is funded through the Department of External Affairs as part of its program for the promotion of Canadian literature in foreign countries and administered by the Writing and Publishing Section of the Canada Council. Australian funding comes through the Australian Council.



Kathleen Williams

Leon Rooke

Short story writer, novelist and playwright Leon Rooke was born in North Carolina in 1934 and has lived in Victoria, British Columbia since 1969 and is now a Canadian citizen.

Although Leon Rooke has been writing short stories since the 1960s and has written nearly 100, he is best known for his first novel *Fat Woman* (1980), which was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Fiction.

In 1981 Rooke published a short story collection called *Death Suite*, and another novel *The Magician in Love* and he, along with John Metcalfe, edited the 1981 and 1982 editions of *Best Canadian Stories*. A new novel, *Shakespeare's Dog* is scheduled for publication later this year.

Rooke has had several plays produced as well, including *Ms. America* which played recently at Factory Lab Theatre in Toronto.

## Arts awards presented

The Canadian Conference of the Arts recently presented its annual awards for outstanding service to the arts in Canada.

Mario Bernardi, conductor of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, G. Hamilton Southam, founding director general of the centre, Betty Oliphant, artistic director and ballet principal of the National Ballet School in Toronto and Louis Archambault, a sculptor from Montreal, were awarded the 1982 Diplomes d'Honneur, the highest prizes of the Canadian Conference of the Arts.

## New concert hall to open in Toronto this fall



Canadian Government Office of Tourism

Roy Thomson Hall, a new \$39-million concert hall seating 2 800 people, will open September 13 with an inaugural performance by the Toronto Symphony and Mendelssohn Choir. Formerly known as New Massey Hall, the building encompasses 9 000 square metres on a one-hectare site, with a glass exterior providing heat in winter through solar intrusion. The complex contains a main auditorium, rehearsal hall, musician support areas and libraries, change rooms, offices and on-site parking for 400 vehicles. Special features include a 5 207-pipe organ with an electronic memory system, 1 080 square metres of sound-absorbing banners, continental seating and special facilities for the handicapped. The stage accommodates more than 100 musicians with room for an on-stage choir. Located in the city's downtown core, the hall will serve as permanent home for the Toronto Symphony and Mendelssohn Choir, as well as being used by touring performers and for community purposes.