

News of the arts

National Arts Centre ten years old

June 2 marks the tenth anniversary of the opening of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The Centre first opened its doors to the public May 31, 1969, with an open house of the facilities and an official christening by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. On June 2, the Opera House raised its tapestry curtain for the first time, on the National Ballet of Canada's *début* performance of *Kraanerg*; the same day the Theatre presented the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde's *Lysistrata*; on June 3 the Studio had its first show, the *première* of Canadian playwright Jack Winter's specially commissioned work *Party Day*.

Ten years later

As of March 1979, the multi-faceted arts complex has produced, shown and booked a total of 7,281 performances of music, theatre (French and English), opera, variety and dance; the audience figure has reached 6,081,000; box office revenue has totalled \$24,080,000.

The National Arts Centre Orchestra has toured 81 communities in Canada and another 60 in the United States, Mexico, Britain and Europe. L'Hexagone, the French theatre troupe specially suitable for school presentations, has visited 162 cities throughout Canada from Nova Scotia to Manitoba; the National Arts Centre Theatre Company, resident in Ottawa, first toured in 1977 taking *The Dream Play* across Canada and *Woyzeck*

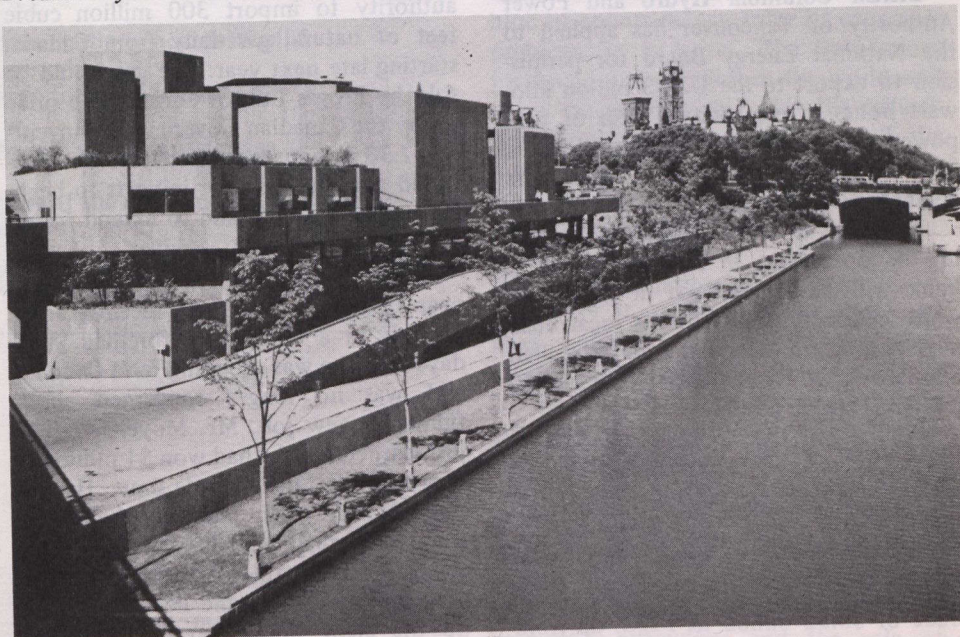


John Evans

During the past ten years, the NAC has entertained well over six million people with 7,281 performances of music, theatre, opera, variety and dance.

to Belgium and France to high critical praise, and in 1978-79 completed its first national tour, giving 130 performances (French and English) in 40 cities across Canada.

At the NAC on May 31 and June 2 this year, it was business as usual. Festivities are planned for the tenth anniversary of the National Arts Centre Orchestra which marks its birthday on October 4.



The National Arts Centre recently celebrated its tenth anniversary.

National Ballet at Chicago festival

The National Ballet of Canada's newly designed sets and costumes for Erik Bruhn's production of *Swan Lake* will be seen for the first time at the third International Dance Festival in Chicago. The series of performances, marking the first time the festival has included the participation of a major dance company, will take place at Chicago's Civic Opera House from June 26-30.

Swan Lake will be danced by Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn and by festival guest artists, Natalia Makarova (American Ballet Theatre) with Peter Martins (New York City Ballet) and Mikhail Dinard (Paris Opera Ballet).

In an unusual format, each evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a program of *pas de deux* performed by members of The National Ballet of Canada and international guest artists, including Mikhail Baryshnikov. Supper will be served from 7.15 p.m. to 8.15 p.m., with the performances of *Swan Lake* following the supper. On June 28, at 7 p.m., a special gala will feature an evening of *pas de deux* with international stars including artists of The National Ballet of Canada.

Audio-visual tribute to Canada

Origins, the lightshow which recently played at the Royal Ontario Museum's McLaughlin Planetarium, left Toronto June 4 for a series of international engagements. The show, produced by Heavy Water, an award-winning team of audio-visual artists from San Francisco, has been booked in planetariums in Rochester, N.Y., Armagh, Ireland, and Hamburg, Germany.

Origins is the second lightshow produced by Heavy Water presented at the McLaughlin Planetarium during the past year. "In many ways this show is a response to Canada, particularly Toronto", says Joan Chase of Heavy Water. "*Origins*" she continues, "explores the evolution and structural symmetry of natural and man-made forms. We have included visuals of the beautiful fall colours, the lush summer greenery and the stark winter trees of the Canadian countryside. We are also using shots of Toronto's stunning modern architecture, and the music of the McLaughlin Planetarium's composer Tim Clark is featured in several sequences."