

# News of the arts

## Shaw festival for 1981

The Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will open its 1981 season May 7 in the Festival Theatre with its first-ever production of Shaw's *Saint Joan*.

Other plays announced by artistic director Christopher Newton for the main stage are Nikolai Erdman's Russian comedy, *The Suicide*, a recent Broadway success, with British actor Derek Jacobi in the leading role; *Tons of Money*, the first Aldwych farce by Evans and Valentine; and a new version of Dumas' *Camille*.

At the Court House Theatre, Pinero's *The Magistrate* will be staged, along with Shaw's comedy, *In Good King Charles' Golden Days*. A lunchtime production of Shaw's *Man of Destiny* will be presented at the Royal George Theatre, along with a musical still to be announced.

The season, which closes October 4, will also feature dance performances on August 27, 28 and 29.

## Canadian band to Montreux festival



The University of Regina Jazz Band, led by Ed Lewis (front) has been invited to perform at the fifteenth annual Montreux International Jazz Festival in Switzerland in July. The 20-piece ensemble is one of four North American university bands invited to the festival. The other three are from the United States.

## New gallery in New York

The Canadian Consulate in New York will open a gallery for Canadian artists, March 20.

The Department of External Affairs operates cultural centres in London, Paris and Brussels, but this is the first time that it has opened a gallery. The gallery, called 49th Parallel, Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art, is intended to respond to unique conditions in New York City, considered to be the visual arts capital of the world.

About two-thirds of the gallery's 7,500 square feet will be devoted to exhibitions of contemporary Canadian art, film and video screenings and studio performances.

While the consulate in New York supports many Canadian performers who come to the city by helping with advertising and publicity, Consul Guy Plamondon, who will direct the gallery, feels that the visual arts have been neglected. "It's easy for performers to get a venue here, he said, adding that it is more difficult in working with museum and cultural institutes to get Canadian representation in the visual arts.

The gallery will open with a show of Michael Snow's recent works to be followed by shows by sculptor Roland Poulin, General Idea and others. 49th Parallel has a five-year lease and its regular season will feature eight artists whose work will be exhibited for four weeks at a time.

## Play on tour

*Balconville*, a bilingual play written by Canadian playwright David Fennario, will be presented abroad starting March 18.

The play will be performed in England at the Theatre Royal in Bath from March 18-21 and at the Old Vic Theatre in London from March 31 to April 11. The play will also be presented at the Grand Opera House in Belfast from March 24-28.

The play, staged by the Centaur Theatre Company of Montreal, deals with the turbulent and harsh life of the working-class residents of Montreal's Pointe St. Charles area.

David Fennario is also the author of *On the Job* and *Nothing to Lose*. The Department of External Affairs is providing assistance for the company's tour.

## "Cendrillon" goes to Paris

The National Arts Centre's (NAC) production of Jules Massenet's opera *Cendrillon* will be presented in Paris this month.



Scene from NAC's *Cendrillon*.

First performed in the French capital in 1899, *Cendrillon* virtually disappeared from the standard opera repertoire until 1979, when the NAC's Festival Ottawa returned it to the stage under Festival artistic director and conductor Mario Bernardi, stage director and choreographer Brian Macdonald and designers Henry Bardon (sets) and Suzanne Mess (costumes).

The internationally-acclaimed production which was also presented in Washington, D.C. last year will travel to the new Théâtre Musical de Paris as a highlight of that company's opening season.

Previous commitments prevented Mr. Bernardi, who conducted the Ottawa and Washington performances, from conducting this spring at Paris's Théâtre Musical, but Mr. Macdonald will be going with *Cendrillon* — as will several other members of the original cast, including Canadians Louis Quilico, Delia Wallis and Maureen Forrester (*Pandolfe*, *Prince Charming* and *Madame de la Haltière* respectively) and American Ruth Welting, the *Fairy Godmother* in the original production.

The Festival Ottawa opera will be staged by the Théâtre Musical in Paris's historic Châtelet theatre March 20-29.