

## Canada-France film pact

Canadian Communications Minister Marcel Masse and French Cultural Affairs Minister Jack Lang recently signed two agreements that will aid the film industry in both countries.

Under the first, Canada will grant \$5 million and France the equivalent of \$412 500 (Cdn) to four co-productions in the animated film industry in the next year.

The second agreement creates a France-Canada prize for film and audio-visual productions for directors who have created cinematographic and audio-visual works co-produced within the provisions of the various agreements and which link Canada to France. The winners of the \$10 000 prize will be selected by an independent three-member panel including film-makers, directors, writers and producers from both countries.

## Ballet extends tour season

The Alberta Ballet Company, which was Canada's only ballet company represented at the International Ballet Festival of Havana, Cuba, made its Toronto debut February 19-23 before continuing on a tour of Montana, Wyoming in the US, and British Columbia.

The ballet company, currently in its eighteenth season has, until recently, primarily focused its performances and touring in western Canada and the northwestern US.

Fifteen dancers from across Canada and abroad make up the Alberta Ballet Company with principals Mariane Beauséjour from Joliette, Quebec and Scott Harris from Edmonton, Alberta, who performed the *pas de deux* from the Lambrou ballet *Adieu*, in Cuba. Brydon Paige is the artistic director of the company.

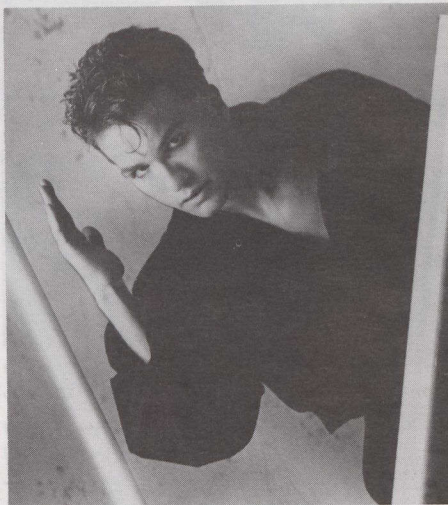
Included in the company's recent tour were performances of Sir Frederick Ashton's *Facade*, Norbert Vesak and Anne Mortifee's *The Grey Goose of Silence*, and three works by the Alberta Ballet Company's resident choreographer, Lambros Lambrou: *Motif*, a new classical ballet in three movements, *pas de deux* from the ballet *Sundances* and *pas de deux* from the ballet *Adieu*.

The tour was supported by Alberta Culture, the Alberta Foundation for the Performing Arts and the Carthy Foundation, with additional assistance from CP Air.

On March 22, the Alberta Ballet Company will be part of the nationally broadcast opening gala of the Edmonton TriBach Festival. They will perform a specially commissioned work by R. Clinton Rothwell, former principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada.

## 'Solide' success for show

Montreal multimedia artist Michel Lemieux's newest show, *Solide Salad*, recently enjoyed overwhelming success and completely sold-out houses in a three-month tour of 17 cities in Canada and the United States. The show has been described by critics as "one hundred minutes of theatrical brilliance...a technically dazzling, deliciously tossed bowl of shape, song, colour, sound and shadow".



Serge Barbeau

Michel Lemieux uses various props and techniques in his one-man presentation.

*Solide Salad* opened in Montreal at the Spectrum where its run was extended and it became the theatre's most successful show. More than 10 000 tickets were sold, breaking the theatre's box-office record for the most tickets sold in a single day for an event and outselling even the major mainstream pop acts who perform at the Spectrum.

Since the successful tour, a video clip of the Michel Lemieux's single *Romantic Complications* has been released as well as a one hour television special of *Solide Salad* that was broadcast by Radio Quebec. A new tour has also been planned commencing in February which will include performances in New York at the Joyce Theatre, in Toronto and eastern Canada, and will end in Europe in May. Plans for the rest of 1985 and 1986 include the release of an album and a world tour.

### Extensive range

Michel Lemieux began working as a multimedia artist in Montreal in 1977. He has worked as a lighting designer and photographer as well as a composer and musician and he combines all his expertise in these areas in his one-man production.

Billed as a "music performance", *Solide Salad* combines music, movement and lighting into a voyage that moves from

the complex to the simple, from the technological to the human.

The show begins with a webbed network of images projected on to a screen similar to that of a kaleidoscope. As the colourful images flicker on the screen, Lemieux dressed in white abstract clothing, blends into them creating an awesome, three-dimensional effect.

Stepping away from the screen this geometric figure sheds his forms explaining that "life is a complicated thing" to an off-beat robot named Oscar. It is a process of stripping away the layers of complexity in a highly technological society.

The 12 musical pieces comprising *Solide Salad* are well-developed visual images. Alain Lortie, winner of the 1983 Felix award for lighting design, is the visual co-director and Simon Pressey, the musical co-director. Choreography and staging were the work of Silvy Panet-Raymond and René-Richard Cyr.

Lemieux's use of lighting is highly effective — as he masterfully limits or opens up the space around himself, and heightens or lowers the desired emotional level he requires. In addition to the overhead beams of coloured light, Lemieux carries his own beams, flicks mirrors and shines around the room.

The pre-recorded and live musical score is as diverse as other elements, ranging from a Phillip Glasseque piece to New York funk, from techno-pop to opera. Coupled with Lemieux's expressive vocals, each piece pulsates with energy.

## TriBach broadcasts

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the 1985 TriBach Festival in Alberta are collaborating to air several festival events including live-to-air broadcast and television taping of the gala premiere performance as well as broadcasts of concerts of the St. Matthew Passion, Goldberg Variations, and recitals of Bach's compositions for the organ.

The TriBach Festival, produced in association with Continental Bank of Canada, is being held in Edmonton and Calgary from March 21 to April 6, 1985, as part of the international celebrations of the three hundredth birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. With an operating budget of \$1.3 million, it is the largest single event of its kind ever to take place in western Canada.

The festival will open with a fireworks display choreographed to Bach's music over the Edmonton River valley on March 21, the composer's actual birthday. The opening gala concert in Edmonton on March 22