

# News of the arts

## Fashion for family

In 1903 a young Montreal bride took off her wedding dress of grey silk gauze trimmed with lace and sequins, and carefully stored it away. She probably never dreamed it would be on display, along with the wash-and-wear play garments of her great-grandchildren in a new exhibition entitled *Fashion in a Family* at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

The twentieth-century costume collection formed by Mrs. Saul A. Silverman, on display until March 31, spans four generations of the Silverman family of Montreal and Toronto.

Highlights of the show are three wedding dresses: the one worn in 1903 by Mrs. Silverman's mother, Mrs. Silverman's own 1932 Montreal-designed dress and trousseau, and the 1963 dress worn by Mrs. Judith Silverman Teller.

Although some French and American designer garments are shown, Canadian designs are evident throughout the exhibition. Several of the versatile costumes on display were made by Montreal couturier Marie Paule — a designer whose fashions Mrs. Silverman considers timeless in their style and adaptability.

Ready-to-wear garments, sportswear,



*Evening ensemble of 1964 and the dark cocktail dress of 1956 show the New York influence prevalent in Canada at the time.*

lingerie and bathing suits are also included. French silk rompers from the Thirties and stretch jumpsuits from the Seventies provide a particularly interesting contrast in children's wear. Make-up, accessories, hairdressing and beauty aids complete the "documentary".



*This 1932 photograph shows Mrs. Saul A. Silverman wearing a satin wedding dress designed by Montreal couturier Ida DesMarais.*

## Winnipeg Ballet 40 years strong

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet presented three performances at the National Arts Centre recently to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the company. The group revived three of its popular ballets from the past: *Les Patineurs*, *Pas d'action* and *The Bitter Weird*.

*Les Patineurs*, by Frederick Ashton to music by Meyerbeer, was first performed by the company in December 1966. It shows the amusing antics of a group of young skaters in the picturesque setting of a nineteenth-century rink.

*Pas d'action* was created especially for the RWB in 1963 by Brian Macdonald. The ballet is, among other things, a parody of the posturings and mannerisms of turn-of-the-century classical ballet set to the accompaniment of the appropriately pompous strains of von Suppe.

Agnes de Mille's *The Bitter Weird* entered the repertoire in the 1961-62 season and the RWB is still the only company in North America to present this work. A dramatic story set in Scotland featuring highland dancing, *The Bitter Weird* uses selections of Loewe and Rittman's music from the musical play *Brigadoon*. The plot of the ballet bears no relation to the original, however, telling instead the tale of a highland lass loved by two suitors.

## Arts briefs

The York Winds, a woodwind quintet formed in 1972 and now resident ensemble at York University, Toronto, will soon combine a performing and lecture tour of Israel with a concert in Cairo — the first Canadian performance in Egypt. Douglas Stewart, Brian Cherney, Paul Grice, Marcus Hennigar and Gerald Robinson will perform and lecture in Tel Aviv, at Jerusalem's Hebrew University and several kibbutzes, and will record with the Israel Broadcasting Authority. Many of the compositions to be played are by Canadians, including Jacques Hetu, Bruce Mather, Brian Cherney, John Weinzweig, John Rea and Murray Schafer.

Canadian actor and director Leslie Yeo will be responsible for programming and casting of the 1979 Shaw Festival season at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Christopher Newton will move from the Vancouver Playhouse in January 1980 to assume artistic directorship of the festival.