



Stratford Festival Theatre, Stratford, Ontario

#### A full season for Stratford players opens in June

Three plays by Shakespeare and a comedy by Oliver Goldsmith will be performed at Stratford's Festival Theatre this summer.

The Festival Theatre season will open on June 4 with *The Taming of the Shrew*, one of the two works the company performed on its recent European tour. The presentation will be adapted to the Festival Theatre's thrust stage, following the Company's return to Canada this month. Pat Galloway and Alan Scarfe will repeat their roles of Kate, the Shrew, and Petruchio, the man who tames her. The Festival's artistic director, Jean Gascon, directs the production, with design by Desmond Heeley and music by Gabriel Charpentier.

Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, the eighteenth century English comedy that proved one of the most popular offerings at the Festival Theatre last summer, will open on June 5. Michael Bawtree directs and Desmond Heeley designs the production, with music by Raymond Pannell. Tony van Bridge will be the bewildered Mr. Hardcastle and Alan Scarfe the irrepressible Tony Lumpkin.

David William, who staged *King Lear* at Stratford in 1972 and also for the European tour, returns to direct

*Othello*, which opens on June 6. Design for the production will be by Annena Stubbs and music by Louis Applebaum, both of whom worked with Mr. William last year on *King Lear*.

Making his Stratford debut in the role of "the Moor of Venice" will be Nahum Buchman, a leading actor with the Habimah Theatre of Israel. Mr. Buchman has played the role once before, in a Habimah production in 1967, which brought him widespread critical acclaim. He has won his country's "Best Male Actor" award twice, and was nominated for it again last year. *Othello* will also feature Martha Henry as Desdemona and Douglas Rain as Iago.

Shakespeare's seldom-performed *Pericles* will open at the Festival Theatre on July 24 directed by Jean Gascon. One of Shakespeare's later works, *Pericles* is a combination of allegory and fairy-tale, depicting an ideal world envisaged by the playwright in his mature years. This will be the first time Stratford has produced the play.

Russian season at the Avon

The Avon Theatre will house a season of Russian drama, featuring two

comic masterpieces of the nineteenth century, both directed by William Hutt, who, last year, directed Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, as well as playing the title role in *King Lear*, and repeating it on tour in Europe.

The season at the Avon opens on June 29 with *A Month in the Country* by Ivan Turgenev, translated by Andrew MacAndrew, which is a play about the rivalry between two women for the love of a young man.

The other production at the Avon will be Nikolai Gogol's *The Marriage Brokers*, which opens on August 3.

Canadian premières for Third Stage

The Stratford Festival's Third Stage will open its 1973 season on July 10 with the first of three premières of Canadian works, two commissioned specially for the Festival.

This will be the third year of operation for the Third Stage, which is housed in Stratford's old Casino building by the river and has been developed by the Festival as a home for original works of theatre and music-theatre.

The opening production will be the première of *Billy The Kid* (specially commissioned), an adaptation by Michael Ondaatje of his prize-winning book, *The Collected Works of Billy*



Tony van Bridge and Mary Savidge as Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle in a scene from *She Stoops to Conquer*.