

# News of the arts

## Molson prizes awarded

The Canada Council Molson Prizes for 1979 were awarded recently to singer Lois Marshall of Toronto; editor and radio producer Robert Weaver of Toronto and filmmaker Michel Brault of Montreal.

The Molson Prizes, each worth \$20,000, have been awarded annually since 1963 to recognize outstanding and continuing contributions to the arts, humanities or social sciences in Canada. They are financed by a donation from the Molson Foundation.

### Lois Marshall

Lois Marshall, one of Canada's "all-time great" musical performers, is beloved by audiences in Canada and around the world. Equally famous for her interpretation of oratorio, opera and lieder, Miss Marshall started as a high lyric and, later, dramatic soprano, and now sings as a mezzo-soprano.

Lois Marshall was born in Toronto and studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Her Canadian operatic debut was made in 1961 in Hamilton, Ontario where she appeared on tour with the Boston Opera as Mimi in *La Bohème*.

In 1958, after her first appearance at La Scala in Milan, she became the first North American soprano to sing in the Soviet Union. She has since returned to the U.S.S.R. several times, and is regarded as the greatest Western soprano to have appeared there in the past quarter century. Since 1966, she has performed with the New York-based Bach Aria Group as its soprano star. She has also maintained a 30-year association with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

### Robert Weaver

Robert Weaver has served for over 30 years as what he calls a "literary middleman", scouting out fresh new talent, providing support, encouragement and intelligent criticism, and finding a public for writers.

In 1948, he joined CBC radio to organize its literary programs. He initiated two series *Critically Speaking* and *Canadian Short Stories* soon followed by *Anthology*, the program of poetry, fiction and interviews he has now produced for more than 20 years. He is currently executive producer of radio drama and literature for the CBC.

Mr. Weaver has edited several important

collections of Canadian short stories, served as a free-lance book reviewer and, since 1956, edited *The Tamarack Review*. His contribution to broadcasting was recognized in 1975 when he received the John Drainie Award from ACTRA.

### Michel Brault

Michel Brault has played a role in the development of film in Canada, and particularly in Quebec, for 30 years. As a scriptwriter, cameraman and director, he has been involved in the production of at least 170 films. His best-known work is *Les ordres*, a moving depiction of the impact of the 1970 October crisis on ordinary citizens. *Les ordres* won a prize for best direction at the Cannes festival.

He became a photographer and then a cameraman and in 1947 began to make experimental films with Claude Jutra. In 1956, he joined the National Film Board. Other well-known films in which Michel Brault participated as director or cameraman are *Kamouraska*, *Mon oncle Antoine*, *L'Acadie, l'Acadie* and *Mourir à tue-tête*.

## Canadian work presented at world music festival

*Oralléluants*, a work by Montreal composer Gilles Tremblay, was included on the program of the annual World Music Festival of the International Society of Contemporary Music (ISCM) held in Israel from June 29 to July 5.

The panel, which included composers Lukas Foss, Cristobal Halffter and Fran-



Gilles Tremblay

çois Bernard Mâche, selected 49 scores out of the 365 that had been submitted to it by composers from 32 countries.

The Canadian work selected was composed in 1974. It was written for soprano, flute, clarinet, tenor clarinet, horn, three tubas and two percussionists.

The Canadian Music Council, which is the Canadian section of the ISCM also announced that it would host the World Music Festival in 1984. Some 20 contemporary musical performances from abroad and from Canada are expected to be organized for an international delegation and for the Canadian public.

It will be the first time that this annual festival has been held in Canada and only the third time in North America.

The World Music Festivals have been held annually since the founding of the ISCM in 1923.

## Supershow II tours Quebec and Atlantic provinces

For the second consecutive year, the *Greatest Little Travelling Supershow for Young People* brought the performing arts to young audiences in Canada. *Supershow II* visited Quebec and the Maritimes in May and June, starting in Montreal on May 1 and finishing in St. John's, Newfoundland on June 7.

As in 1979, when *Supershow* was created to celebrate the International Year of the Child, the Touring Office of the Canada Council produced and coordinated the event, with the co-operation of provincial and municipal governments and local sponsors.

The companies and entertainers participated in *Supershow*, which visited 33 communities in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland: Théâtre L'Avant-Pays, the marionette company from Montreal; Nexus, a percussion ensemble from Toronto; Canadian Puppet Festivals, Canada's oldest professional puppet theatre company from Chester, Nova Scotia; Vancouver's contemporary dance company, the Anna Wyman Dance Theatre; harmonica player Alain Lamontagne of Montreal; The Dumptrucks, three musicians from Saskatchewan; Toronto's award-winning Lampoon Puppettheatre; Camerata, a chamber ensemble; Sharon, Lois and Bram, a singing group from Toronto; and Canada's oldest professional ballet company Royal Winnipeg Ballet.