

# News of the arts



Büchner's own comment that "we are just puppets manipulated by unknown forces" was the inspiration for Jean Herbiet's interpretation of the play. (From left to right) Richard Pochinko, Michael Rudder, Felix Mirbt and Louïs Di Bianco rehearse with two of the wooden dolls crafted by Felix Mirbt.

## Ottawa production visits France and Belgium

The National Arts Centre's French theatre production of *Woyzeck* has begun a five-week tour of France and Belgium (January 6 to February 11), under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs under Canada's cultural agreements with the two countries. This will be the first time a theatre production from the NAC will be seen abroad.

First presented at the National Arts Centre in 1974, the play, written by Georg Büchner and directed by the NAC French Theatre director Jean Herbiet, in collaboration with puppeteer Félix Mirbt, toured in Montreal in 1975, and returned to the NAC in 1976. The production, which involves actors and puppets, has been one of the major artistic successes of the Centre.

*Woyzeck* will be performed in France in Besançon, Mulhouse, Créteil, Macon, Bourges, Nevers, Le Creusot, Dijon, Pontoise, Orléans and Amiens, and in Belgium in Brussels and Liège.

## Arts briefs

The **Original Dumbbells** is a new album of musical selections recorded by the military entertainers, The Dumbbells, during their postwar vaudeville days. The album features original recordings by Al Plunkett, Red Newman, Jock Holland and Ross Hamilton, all of whom entered professional show business after amusing fellow soldiers in France during the First World War. A National Archives photograph of The Dumbbells in full costume, including two men in female clothing, is reproduced on the album cover. *The Legend of The Dumbbells*, a production portraying the characters and activities of the troupe, by the Charlottetown Summer Festival, was an uproarious hit last year. (See *Canada Weekly*, Vol. 5, No. 34, dated August 24, 1977.)

An Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism film, *Ottawa: Canada's Capital*, has won first prize in the 1977 Travel Film Festival, held annually at Anahelm, California. It was produced by Crawley Films, Ottawa, for the ministry. The film is described as a whimsical, musical romp through the four seasons around the nation's capital.

## Children's art and poetry make pitch for national unity



The National Capital Commission has produced a bilingual calendar, containing children's prints and poems, designed to promote national unity. Each page features a painting and two poems, one in English, one in French. Selections were provided by All About Us, a non-profit organization that solicits contributions from creative youngsters across the country. The calendar, published by McClelland and Stewart and designed by Frank Newfeld, is available in local bookstores.