

News of the arts

Stratford Festival sets off to a bumper season



Elizabeth Leigh-Milne, Seana McKenna and Paddy Campanaro as the weird sisters in *Macbeth*.

This year's Stratford Festival reported a record \$1.37-million worth of advance orders some two months before opening in June. An unusually high level of interest from the local community and from United States audiences was credited for much of the increase over last year's advance sales, which were \$1.11 million at the same period.

The thirty-first season, which opened on June 5 with *Macbeth*, runs until October 22. Productions in the three auditoriums — Festival Theatre, the Avon Theatre and the Third Stage — are (in order of opening) Shakespeare's *Macbeth*; *As You Like It*; *Richard II*; Molière's *Tartuffe*; Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* and *The Mikado*; William Wycherley's *The Country Wife*; and Arthur Miller's classic *Death of a Salesman*. Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Much Ado About Nothing* open in August and, the Virtuoso Performance series has Douglas Campbell in *Blake*; Lewis Gordon in *Damien*; Edward Atienza in *When That I Was*; and Irene Worth in three — *Letters of Love and Affection*; *Venus and Adonis*; and *Ulysses and Mrs. Dalloway*.

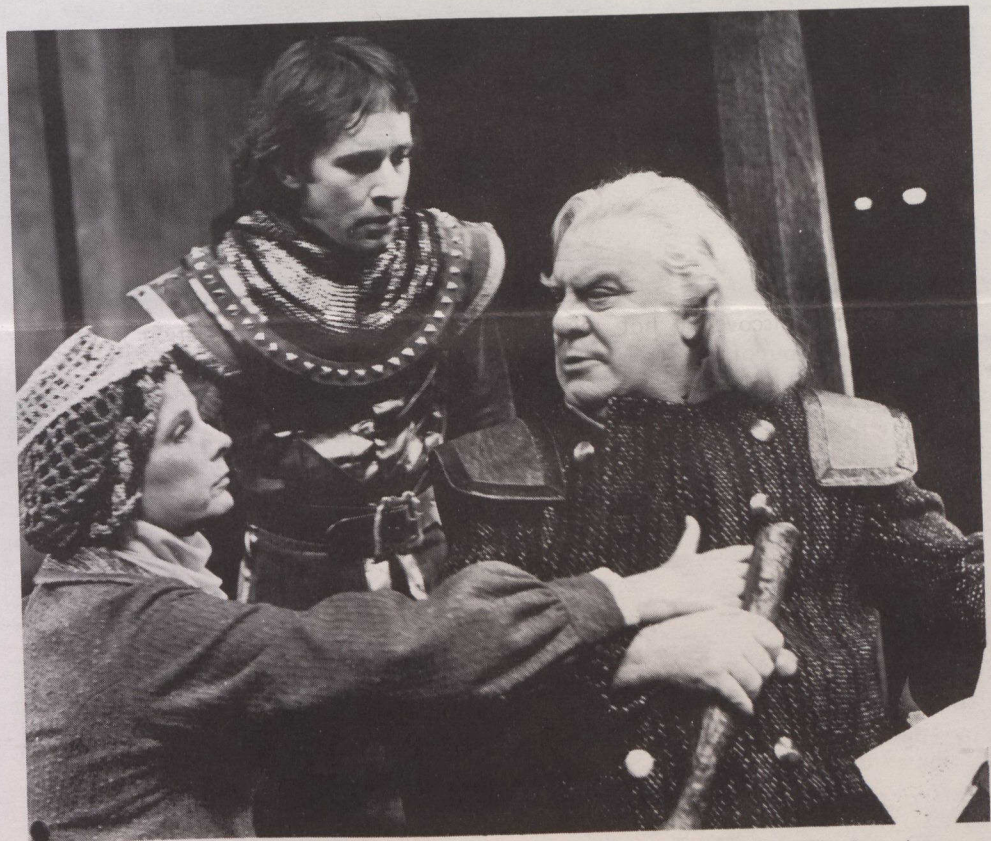
Appearing in concert are Ella Fitz-

gerald; George Shearing and Adam Makowicz; Ray Charles; Preservation Hall Jazz Band; Neil Sedaka; Mel Tormé, Rob McConnell and Boss Brass; Roberta Flack. The lecture series on Sunday mornings features W.O. Mitchell; Anne Lancashire; Don Harron; John Kenneth Galbraith; Richard Wilbur; Martin Esslin; Vivian Rakoff and Arthur Miller.

For program details and box office information write to The Stratford Festival Box Office, P.O. Box 520, Stratford, Ontario, Canada N5A 6V2 or phone 519-273-1600.



The Mikado — Eric Donkin as Ko-Ko.



Richard II — Pat Galloway as Duchess of York, John Jarvis as Aumerle and Douglas Campbell as Duke of York.

Photos Robert C. Ragsdale