

# News of the arts

## Tutankhamon exhibition confirmed for Toronto

A protocol bringing one of the largest exhibitions of ancient Egyptian artifacts to Canada was recently signed in Cairo by Canadian Ambassador Jean-Marie Déry and the Egyptian Minister of Education, Culture and Scientific Research, Dr. Hassan Mohammed Ismail. (See *Canada Weekly*, dated June 7, 1978, Page 7.)

A technical agreement was also signed representing the interests of the National Museums of Canada and the Egyptian Organization of Antiquities which will allow the *Treasures of Tutankhamon* to be seen at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto in November-December 1979.

The exhibition contains 55 objects from the tomb of Tutankhamon, Pharaoh of Egypt from 1334 to 1325 B.C., which was discovered by the British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922. The works have been on tour in the U.S. since November 1976 when the exhibition opened at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Before it comes to Canada it will also have been seen in Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, and San Francisco.

## Dancers perform the unexpected

Indian masks, laser beams, roller skates, bicycles, boxes and balloons are all part of the Anna Wyman Dance Theatre now touring Eastern Canada.

Since it was formed seven years ago by Wyman, the Vancouver company has emerged as a dance company of international importance. In 1973 it was judged one of the three outstanding entries at the Young Choreographers' Competition of Cologne, Germany. The troupe of seven dancers now has over 30 works in its repertoire, all choreographed by Wyman.

One of the dances on tour is *Klee Wyck*, a ballet for west coast artist Emily Carr commissioned by the Vancouver Art Gallery to commemorate International Women's Year. Set to music by Vancouver songwriter Ann Mortifee, *Klee Wyck* (the Indian name given to Emily Carr meaning "Laughing One") is danced in hand-painted costumes before slides of the artist's paintings featuring the shaman, dancing Indian masks, a rain forest and the spirits of the woods.



Anna Wyman Dance Theatre

Also featured are: *Deflection*, set to electronic music by John Mills-Cockell using a sound-synchronized laser beam; *Tremolo*, exploring the interplay of muscular, structural and emotional tensions; *Sixes and Sevens*, a humorous piece moving from park bench to party playing on the fads of the Sixties and Seventies; *Two People, a pas de deux* "about anguish, searching and finding"; *Quicksilver*, featuring Michael Haydn's neon sculpture, a giant flickering web with mirrors reflecting the dancers' movements; *Number One*, a "clever and outrageous" piece, with roller skates, walking silver boxes and cylinders and a *Swan Lake* parody mocking the conventions of dance; and finally *Dance Is...*, a Wyman favourite using bicycles, bodies and athletes, a parody on the similarities in everything that moves.

## NAC tour adds play

The new touring company of the National Arts Centre will add a third play, Calgary playwright John Murrell's *Waiting for the Parade*, to its cross-country tour opening in Vancouver on January 22.

It was previously announced that the company would perform Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and a musical review, *William Schwenck and Arthur Who?*, in more than ten major cities before bringing *Hamlet* into the centre's regular winter theatre season.

*Waiting for the Parade* is a play about five women in Calgary facing various trials while their men are overseas during the Second World War.

A new production of *Memoir*, Murrell's play about the last days of Sarah

Bernhardt, is also planned for the NAC's English theatre company this season.

The touring plays are to be performed in repertory in Vancouver, British Columbia; Banff and Calgary, Alberta; Saskatoon and Regina, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Windsor and Hamilton, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec; and some Maritime cities.

## Alberta show visits New York

A troupe of young Albertans is currently performing a western Canadian play in an off-Broadway run in New York.

*Hard Hats and Stolen Dreams*, which deals with the oil sands boom town of Fort McMurray in northern Alberta, is being staged by Edmonton's Theatre Network in a converted warehouse-theatre in the Soho section of the city.

The seven members of the group performed the piece in their home province and took it on a Canadian tour that included stops in the Maritimes and a week at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

The play was written by the members of the original company who opened it in Fort McMurray in 1977.

Mark Mason, the company's producer, director and artistic director, said the group was invited to the U.S. by some New York actors who work at the Performing Garage Theatre.

## Arts brief

Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts recently paid tribute to the National Film Board of Canada and its founder, John Grierson. A two-weekend program of NFB films entitled, *John Grierson and the National Film Board of Canada* was organized in collaboration with the Canadian Consulate General in Boston and formed a part of "Center Screen", a one-month project of the University Film Study Centre at Harvard. Among the films screened during the special program were the American premiere of Donald Brittain's recent film on Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Quebec Premier René Lévesque, *The Champions* (see *Canada Weekly*, dated October 4, P. 4); Brittain's *Henry Ford's America*; *Los Canadienses*, directed by Albert Kish; Michael Rubbo's *Sad Song of Yellow Skin*, and *Healing*, directed by Pierre Lasry.