



The 800-seat thrust-stage theatre.

of 120 and a full-time residential ballet-school. After the debut of *Kraanerg*, the company will perform on successive nights *Romeo and Juliet* and Erik Bruhn's *Swan Lake*.

#### ARISTOPHANES TO MUSIC

The theatre will open on June 3 with a new version of Aristophanes *Lysistrata*, to be performed by Canada's leading French company, Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. The play, presented in the form of a musical drama, bears the subtitle "Make Love, Not War".

Music will play a predominant role in this production, and films and slides will be projected on a backdrop. The 50 members of the cast will all be capable of acting, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.

Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde was formed in 1951 to fill a demand for professional theatre in Montreal. Since then, it has offered complete theatrical seasons. While the company's repertoire has consisted mainly of Canadian plays, it has also included French plays and French translations of important works in other languages.

#### NEW CANADIAN PLAYS

The theme of a new Canadian play, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, which is being presented for the first time, is that of a people in conflict, struggling with the disadvantage of a language that no longer bears much reference to the realities of modern living.

The play was written by George Ryga, a 37-year-old Canadian born in northern Alberta of Ukrainian parents.

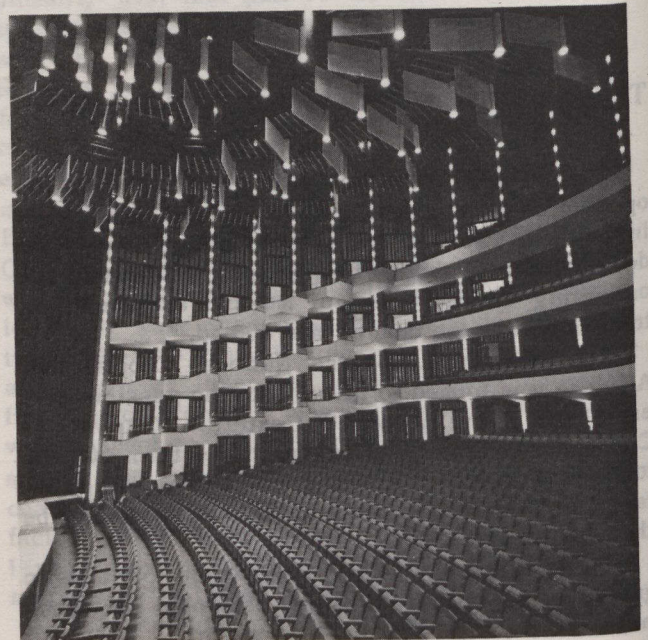
The *Ecstasy of Rita Joe* will be presented by the Playhouse Theatre Company of Vancouver, a

non-profit organization that performs new and unusual plays by Canadian contemporary writers.

To inaugurate its experimental studio at the opening Festival, the National Arts Centre commissioned a young Canadian dramatist, Jack Winter, to write and produce an original play, *Party Day*. A professor of English at York University from 1962 to 1966, Jack Winter has written or adapted several plays, among which was *Before Compiègne*, which won the *Telegram Theatre Award* for the best new Canadian play of 1963-64. *Party Day* concerns Josef Goebbels and the Nazi propaganda rallies during the 1930s.

#### MUSIC

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra will present the first concert to be given in the opera house on June 6; this will be followed from June 10 to 12 by performances by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.



The 2,300-seat opera house-concert hall has the second largest stage and most modern sound and lighting in North America.

A group known as the Manitoba University Consort will provide music spanning six centuries, played on the very instruments for which the compositions were written. Much attention has been given to ensuring a historically authentic performance of the music. The earliest works to be performed are troubadour songs of the twelfth century.

Other entertainment in the opening Festival includes music by the Duo Patch, the Orford String Quartet, performances of the new opera *Orphée* by Gabriel Charpentier and solo concerts by the Canadian singers Monique Leyrac and Gordon Lightfoot. (See also *Canadian Weekly Bulletins*, Vol. 24, No. 5, dated January 29, 1969, P. 3 and Vol. 23, No. 16, dated April 17, 1968, P. 3.)