

# News of the arts

## Art signs of the times

According to *CBAC News*, a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada, major corporations are commissioning well-known artists to do advertising signs both for inside the Galleria — the enclosed space which is the trade mark of the Eaton Centre in Toronto — and on the outside wall on Yonge Street.

So far outside, there are two electric signs: one for Coca-Cola Limited created by Don-Jean Louis, an artist who usually has his work shown in Toronto's Electric Gallery, and another larger one by Michael Hayden of London, Ontario, for Uniroyal. Both of these signs are strikingly different from the signs seen on Yonge Street.

Inside, Joyce Wieland has done a quilted hanging in the form of a shoe and jean-clad leg, which, in bright primary colours, proclaims that the shoe is made by Bata Limited. Close by is a revolving aluminum clock in the shape of a quartz crystal designed for Timex Canada by Nobuo Kubota.

At the other end of the Galleria is a large acrylic painting of socks in the shape of a flower done on behalf of



Signs by Wieland and Kubota.

McGregor Socks Limited by Robert Markle, who exhibits at the Isaacs Gallery, and is one of the people who has just created *Arts Sake*, a new art school in Toronto.

Art Collection Canada is responsible for the idea of using recognized artists to create advertising signs and Cadillac Fairview, the joint owners of the Eaton Centre, are happy with the results.

Within a very short time, a computer-controlled sign of coloured neon tubing designed by Robern Arn will advertise the Toronto Dominion Bank; Gerry Zeldin is working on a Swedish lake scene to advertise Orrefors Swedish glass, and Panasonic will have a brass and stainless steel relief designed by artist Gino Lorcini portraying the high fidelity sound wave.

Other Canadian artists who have submitted ideas include Greg Curnoe, Ken Danby, Michael Snow, John Boyle, Graham Coughtry and Dennis Burton.

## Oscar nominations for NFB

The National Film Board of Canada has received four nominations for this year's Academy Awards, to be presented in Hollywood on April 3.

Two of the nominees, *Sand Castle* and *The Bead Game*, are in the animation category, while *I'll Find a Way* was selected in the live action short section and *High Grass Circus* was chosen in the documentary feature competition.

The Film Board has received 45 Academy Award nominations over the years, winning Oscars for *Churchill's Island* and for Norman McLaren's *Neighbours*.

*Sand Castle*, by Co Hoedeman, has already won the Grand Prize at the eleventh International Animation Festival in Annecy in France. Its central character is the Sandman who sculpts creatures out of sand, who go on to build a fairy-tale sand castle, but not necessarily to live in it happily ever after.

In *The Bead Game*, animator Ishu Patel arranges and manipulates thousands of beads into creatures both mythical and real to examine man's competitive nature and show how he has striven through the ages to assert his power over others in an attempt to survive and conquer.

*High Grass Circus*, directed by Torben Schioler and Tony Ianzelo, tells the story of the only Canadian tent circus in existence — the Royal Brothers Circus. Co-director Ianzelo was also nominated

for an Academy Award last year for *Blackwood*.

Director Beverly Shaffer's *I'll Find a Way* is about a nine-year-old girl who, though afflicted by a congenital condition that affects her legs, walks with crutches and a brace, swims with her running shoes on and plays basket ball from a wheelchair.

## Theatre Ontario proud of itself

Theatre Ontario, with the help of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council, created jobs for hundreds of people in Ontario's theatre community in 1977.

Through the Community Theatre Training Program, \$80,000 is given each year to Ontario's community theatre groups, enabling them to hire professional directors, designers, and workshop leaders during their seasons. In the current year, at least 150 professional theatre people will receive employment through this program.

In the Youth Theatre Training Program, \$45,000 will be used for the salaries of theatre professionals hired to conduct various projects around the province. In 1977, 145 young people from the ages of 15 to 25 also had jobs created for them from these programs.

The Professional Theatre Apprenticeship Program paid over \$30,000 in 1977 to 19 young people to assist them in securing training apprenticeships with professional companies.

The annual Theatre Ontario summer courses which hire numerous theatre professionals for their workshops, the week-long Ontario Theatre Festival which involves close to 5,000 theatre people from all over the province, and *Scene Changes*, Ontario's leading theatre magazine which uses scores of free-lance journalists and artists on a regular basis, are further examples of a successful effort to stimulate theatre and the economy.

## Arts brief

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet will perform in New York for the first time on March 28. The seven performances will take place at the 55th Street Theatre, home of the Joffrey Ballet and Alvin Ailey Dance companies.