

# News of the arts

## Winnipeg's contemporary dancers

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, founded in 1964 by its present artistic director, Rachel Browne, performed recently at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

The program, drawn from a repertoire that includes over 50 original works, featured a live performance by Winnipeg singer/songwriter Judith Lander in *Spy*. Choreographer Lynne Taylor collaborated on the piece, inspired by Anais Nin's novel *Spy in the House of Love*. *Spy* is the story of a woman whose desires and fantasies lead her into a life of deception as she leaves her husband in search of various lovers. It received rave reviews both in New York, where it first opened, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Contemporary Dancers presented the Canadian premiere.

The company also performed *Songs*, created for Contemporary Dancers by Norman Morrice, the artistic director of Britain's Royal Ballet; *Re-entry* by Judith Marcuse; and *Just About Us*, choreographed by Rachel Browne for her 17-year-old daughter Ruth.

## Stratford announces 1979 season

The Stratford Festival will present 12 productions on its three stages in 1979.

Three Shakespeare productions will be done at the Festival Theatre: *The First Part of Henry IV*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *The Second Part of Henry IV*. Edward Bond's *The Woman* will have its North American premiere at the Festival next season.

The Avon stage will house two Shakespeare plays: *Othello* and *Richard II*. Philip Barry's 1920s comedy, *Holiday*, will also be presented at the Avon Theatre, together with a revival of Sheldon Rosen's *Ned and Jack*, seen this year at the Third Stage. Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which enjoyed a brief run of performances at the Third Stage in 1975 and was revived the following year at the Festival Theatre, will be mounted at the Avon next season.

At the Third Stage in 1979: Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Victoria*, a commissioned work by Ontario playwright Steve Petch, and *Yerma*, in a newly commissioned adaptation by Kenneth Dyba of Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca's drama.

## Offshoot of National Ballet

Six dancers from the National Ballet of Canada, led by soloist Ann Ditchburn and including principal dancers Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn, have formed a new company, called the Ballet Revue, as an outlet for new choreography. The three other members are Cindy Lucas, David Roxander and Tomas Schramek.

Although it hopes to feature work by other young choreographers, in its first year the non-profit company will mainly be presenting work by Ditchburn, whose work, *Mad Shadows*, is in the repertoire of the National's autumn season. The dancers may perform with the Revue only when they are not required by the National — time that would otherwise be vacation period for the dancers, or the time for guest appearances with other companies.

The company's first tour includes a night at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on April 14, and at the National Arts Centre, April 17. The company will dance in Vancouver and Victoria May 10-17, and may appear in San Francisco, U.S. May 2, 4 and 5. The lack of a suitable theatre space means the company will not be performing in Toronto (most of the halls the group intends to use seat under 1,000).

## Exhibition of Inuit art

An exhibition of Inuit sculpture and carvings organized by the Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec opened in Puvirnituq, Quebec recently.

Except for three which come from Payne Bay, all 25 sculptures were done by Puvirnituq artists. Some of them —

## McMichaels of Kleinburg win "Connie" award

Robert and Signe McMichael, directors of the McMichael Canadian Collection at Kleinburg, Ontario, were chosen as recipients of the "Connie" award from the 600-member Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) meeting in New Delhi, India recently.

"Connie", derived from the organization's emphasis on conservation, is open to candidates throughout the world. The McMichaels were among ten candidates so honoured this year.

Twenty-five years ago, the couple began collecting Canadian art, including the works of Tom Thomson, the famous Group of Seven and its contemporaries, plus a wealth of Eskimo and Indian contributions from all across Canada. Then, in a gift to the province, they signed over their home, their land and their collection, which now numbers about 1,500 pieces.

They will be honoured at the Toronto Press Club by the Canadian Chapter of the SATW later this year with the presentation of the mythological "Phoenix", the society's symbol for involvement in conservation, preservation and beautification campaigns in travel areas.

Sheeguapik, Leah Qumaluk, Isah Aviliajuk, Joe Talirurnilik and Moses Etuk — have already won international acclaim.

Subject matter for the soapstone or ivory carvings includes birth, death, animals, animal spirits, hunting, mythology (depicted by sea nymphs and creatures with birds' heads) and the trials and joys of daily activities.



Trip by oomiak, Joe Talirurnilik. Sculpture in steatite and ivory.