

News of the arts

National Ballet of Canada prepares for spring season



Members of the National Ballet in a production of *Giselle*.

The National Ballet of Canada has announced its program for the 1981 spring season at Toronto's O'Keefe Centre from February 11 to March 14.

The company's repertoire will include three love stories: *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Sleeping Beauty* plus two mixed programs. The season will open with Erik Bruhn's production of *Swan Lake*.

The first of the mixed programs, February 18-22, will include: *The Dream* — Frederick Ashton's adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, enhanced by the music of Mendelssohn; *Dark Elegies* — acclaimed for its emotional impact and considered to be one of Antony Tudor's greatest ballets; and Harald Lander's *Etudes* — a display of pure dance and an enthusiastic celebration of technical ability for the entire company.

The romantic story of star-crossed lovers, *Romeo and Juliet*, will be performed by the company during the third week of the season.

During the second program of one-act ballets, March 4-8, the company will present four works: *Kettentanz* — a chain of dances to lively Viennese polkas, galops and waltzes; Michel Fokine's *Le Spectre de la Rose* — the romantic story of a young girl's dream after her first ball; *Song of a Wayfarer* — a piece of dramatic

dancing in which a young man and his double (or conscience) struggle and are finally reconciled; and *Newcomers* — an original Canadian work created by Brian Macdonald for the National Ballet and commissioned by Imperial Oil on the occasion of its one-hundredth anniversary.

To complete the five week spring season, the National Ballet will present *The Sleeping Beauty* from March 11-14.

Guest performers

Guest artists for the company's spring season will be: Patrick Bissell as the Prince in *Swan Lake* and Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*; Celia Franca as Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*; Anthony Dowell as Oberon in *The Dream*; and Lois Smith as the Queen and Sean Lavery as the Prince in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Four stars who have never appeared with the company before will be featured in a gala performance to be held March 6. Carla Fracci of La Scala Opera Ballet in Milan, Ib Anderson (formerly of the Royal Danish Ballet and now with the New York City Ballet) and Erik Bruhn star in a performance of *La Sylphide*, while the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Evelyn Hart and David Peregrine, recent gold medal winners of the International Ballet Competition at Varna, join members of the National Ballet in a series of divertissements.

Quebec novelist takes prize

The 1980 France-Canada Prize for literature has been awarded to Claude Jasmin of Quebec for his novel *La Sablière*.

Jasmin, a 50-year-old novelist, screenwriter and playwright born in Montreal, has won several prizes for other works, including the Quebec-France Prize in 1964 for *Ethel et le Terroriste*.

La Sablière (The Sand-Pit) is the story of two children in lakeside Oka, Quebec, west of Montreal.

The France-Canada prize, created in 1961, is awarded each year to a French or French-speaking Canadian writer.

Political cartoons displayed

An exhibit of original cartoons covering Canadian political life from 1959-1978 are on display at the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa until February 28.

The exhibit of 80 cartoons, produced by Duncan MacPherson while he was employed by the *Toronto Star*, was opened by the Minister of State for Multiculturalism Jim Fleming.

Issues and personalities of the Canadian political scene during the last 20 years are highlighted in this exhibition, called *Daily Smile*. It is subdivided into eight different themes: National Leaders, National Parties, the Economy, Scandals, National Unity, Toronto Scene, International Affairs and Social Concerns.

"Macpherson's editorial cartoons are a true manifestation of twentieth-century documentary art," said Dominion Archivist Wilfred I. Smith. The Macpherson Collection was donated to the Public Archives by *The Toronto Star* and contains 1,220 cartoons.

