

News of the arts

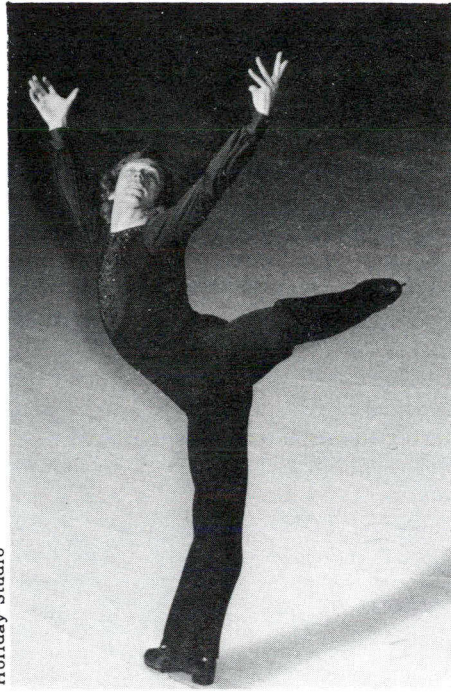
Toller Cranston on Broadway

The professional New York *début* of Canadian champion skater Toller Cranston will take place on January 24, when "Toller Cranston and the Ice Show" opens on Broadway at the Uris Theatre. Eight performances a week will be given until February 27. Cranston, who heads a 13-member company of international ice-skating champions, created the production.

At 27 years old, Cranston's talent has earned him the appellation "skater of the century" and laurels that include six consecutive championships in Canada, three world free-skating championships and an Olympic bronze medal at Innsbruck in 1975. He left competitive skating recently to devise the show, which has performed to packed arenas and standing ovations from Victoria, British Columbia to Halifax, Nova Scotia, since its *première* in Toronto last September 23.

Cranston, considered as the pioneer of "artistic" skating, has a unique style and technical ability that many have called remarkable.

The show contains no "chorus lines, production numbers and novelty acts that have become the trademarks for conventional ice extravaganzas", say Hurok Concerts Inc., the company which will present it on Broadway. "Rather, the production spotlights



Holiday Studio

Cranston, "skater of the century."

the drama, purity and excitement of steller solo and pair performance on ice."

The company includes Jim Millns, Colleen O'Connor, Gordon McKellan Jr., Barbara Berezowski, David Porter, Candace Jones, Don Fraser, Kath Malmberg, Bob Rubens, Emily Benenson, Jack Courtney and Elizabeth Freeman.

Poet honoured in France

During the past summer Canadian poet and writer Pierre Morency, often called "the love poet", won the Claude Sermet prize, which is given in France to a French-speaking poet from another country. The award, won by Mr. Morency for his work as a whole, was presented at a ceremony at Rodez in the south of France.

Pierre Morency was born in 1942 in Lauzon, a small town almost directly facing Quebec City on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. For several years he was a cultural organizer on several fronts, promoting the formation of groups of poets and finding places and times that were propitious to poets' free expression of their art. Initially he wrote a number of children's plays. In 1968, when he was teaching literature, he won a prize worth \$1,000 from Imperial Tobacco Limited and in 1971

he was awarded a Canada Council grant. In May of the same year he published his first play for adults, *La Jarnigoine*. According to the author, it was the first play ever written with this title, and also the first to take place entirely in a waiting room — which obviously symbolized Quebec. Mr. Morency was pleased that people found his play amusing; there were few amusing plays in modern Quebec literature, and he did not wish to bore the public, he said, any more than he himself wished to be bored when he went to the theatre.

The love poet

Morency's three collections of poems, published from 1967 to 1970, are surprisingly cohesive. He recognizes the fact that they reflect a kind of personal development. The first collection, entitled *Poèmes de la froide merveille de vivre* (Poems of the icy wonder of

life), contain love poems by a young man who is enraptured by the wonder of love, of a love as clear as water and as clear as the air, but who is also aware of the realities of life. For him, love is constantly threatened by the myriad forces of death, and day-to-day existence suppresses even the most powerful outbursts of the soul.

The second collection, entitled *Les poèmes de la vie déliée* (Poems of an unfettered life), concludes with an admission of failure, while in the third collection, *Au nord, constamment de l'amour* (In the North, constantly loving), the poet, having lost his illusions, looks at the world that nourishes him. Love is still there, he feels, because he now knows that he will never be anything but a love poet.

Pierre Morency sings constantly of love; he calls to it incessantly. For him our civilization is in the throes of death. His proof? It lies in the disrespect accorded to life. When asked for his views on woman, he replies that man has almost completely destroyed her and that it is therefore fitting that she should now feel contempt for him. Only artists and certain great lovers have really loved her, and she has always infused new blood and life into them. He adds that the world is a reflection of man's view of woman and that we shall have to take a fresh look at her if we want tomorrow's world to be a livable one.

TV king reins supreme

The empire of the *King of Kensington*, a weekly television series of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was widened considerably when it was sold recently to nine of the largest cities in the United States.

The series is the first one to be sold to U.S. stations while still in production and has the potential for a long run. The CBC is optimistic about the show's popularity in other countries and expects sales to be made to overseas broadcasters.

National Film Board's *Los Canadienses*, directed by Albert Kish, has been named the best television film at the Mannheim International Film Festival in Germany.