

North America and Europe, established Lepage's international reputation and won him first prize at the prestigious Festival du théâtre français des Amériques. The play centres on the "resource" of an archaeological dig in a parking lot whereby three different Chinatowns in three different Canadian cities are uncovered. The result is a complex epic that traces the physical and spiritual development of the various Chinese communities over a period of 75 years with a sub-plot that focuses on individuals from the larger Canadian community.

Following hard on the heels of *Dragon's* success was the equally acclaimed *Vinci* — a one-man show written, directed and starring Lepage. A brazenly technological tour de force, the play portrays the conflict between the artist and his work by telling the story of a young Québécois who goes overseas to clarify his own thoughts by following in the tracks of Leonardo da Vinci. The protagonist delves into his obsessions and questions the relevance of his creative work in a touching quest for artistic integrity.

Vinci completed an overwhelmingly successful European tour in 1987. It also won the coveted Prix d'Avignon in France as well as awards in Switzerland and England.

Tectonic Plates, Lepage's most recent work, has been hailed by critics as a work of genius. Symbolic theatre at its best, *Plates* is a portrait of humanity in progress that creates the impression, says Lepage, "that there is a guiding force to be found in mysteries of existence, like that residing in the bowels of the earth, which despite all obstacles, constantly remodels and enriches life." The play has been performed in theatres throughout North America, Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain,

Austria and Mexico. It is slated to premiere in London, England, at the Royal National Theatre in November 1990.

In June 1990, Lepage began a three-year term as artistic director of French theatre at Ottawa's National Arts Centre (NAC). His goal is to strengthen the NAC's position as a meeting place for Canadian and international artists. Indeed, theatre lovers are curious to see what new course French theatre will take under Lepage's brilliant directorship. Lepage says he hopes to shake up theatre-goers with "a change in course that reflects a new decade and an up-and-coming generation in the world of theatre." Many are sure that he will. ♦

Sharon Pollock: A Playwright of Conscience

Sharon Pollock's refreshing candour and spontaneity have made her one of the leading figures of modern Canadian theatre. Animated by an all-consuming passion for theatre, this self-confessed workaholic and mother of five has contributed significantly to Canadian theatre in different capacities. She has won Canada's highest literary awards for several of her plays and has received equal recognition for her acting and radio dramas. Pollock's plays have also reached an international audience and have been translated into several languages, including German and Japanese.

Refreshing candour and spontaneity have made Sharon Pollock one of the leading figures of Canadian theatre.



Victor Fisher