

# News of the arts

## All that jazz

Canadian clarinetist Phil Nimmons conducted an evening of "big band" jazz at the National Arts Centre recently. Special guests were flautist Kathryn Moses and vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Clarence "Big" Miller.

Born in Kamloops, British Columbia, Nimmons studied at the Juilliard School of Music and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. His early musical experience included several years with the Ray Norris Quintet until 1950 when he began composing dramatic scores for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) productions. In 1953, Nimmons "N" Nine was formed as a rehearsal band which quickly developed its own following, performing for the CBC where it is now heard regularly on Jazz Radio Canada.

In 1960, the band grew to its present 16 members including musical talent from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Hamilton Philharmonic. Several of the band's members have also played with the big name bands of Stan Kenton, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson and England's John Dankworth. Others have been members of two of Canada's most successful rock groups, Lighthouse and Dr. Music.

Kathryn Moses, in addition to having played flute with the Royal Winnipeg and National Ballets' orchestras, has played back-up on albums by Chuck Mangione



Canadian clarinetist Phil Nimmons

and was featured soloist on an album by Bruce Cockburn.

Clarence "Big" Miller, a jazz vocalist and player of the trombone, acoustic and electric bass, drums, congos, bongo, tambourine and harmonica, has played bass and sung with Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Cannonball Adderley, Miles Davis, Lionel Hampton and Woody Herman.

## Special look at autobiography

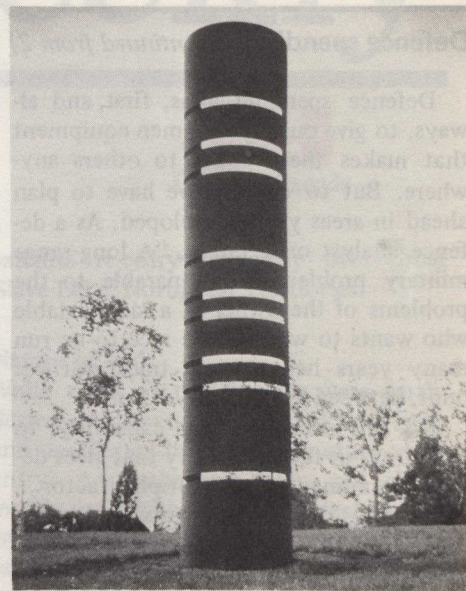
A major survey of more than 60 autobiographical films, videotapes, photography and performance is being undertaken at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto until December 7.

A weekend conference, November 4 and 5, opens the presentation, featuring noted critics and filmmakers from across North America, bringing together major new films that span the categories of documentary, experimental, diary and *cinéma vérité*, by Stan Brakhage, Maxi Cohen and David Rimmer, among others. Al Maysles, Ed Pincus, Amalie Rothchild, Sandy Wilson and Kathleen Shannon have discussed their works, as will Clay Borris, Robert Frank, James Kelly and Rick Hancox later in the series. Laurie Anderson, Constance De Jong, David Antin and Pater Handke will perform autobiographical material, using text, movement, music and film.

## New sculpture

*Commentary* is the title of one of the most recent additions to the National Capital Commission's Sculpture Walk in Ottawa. The new sculpture by Phyllis Kurtz Fine of Toronto is situated in a prominent location on the Hull bank of the Ottawa river, directly across from the federal Parliament Buildings. The 14-foot tall sculpture is made of Stelcoloy, a type of self-weathering, rust limiting alloy steel. Over the next few years, the sculpture will gradually texturize and acquire a blue-brown patina. The work, chosen by the National Capital Commission, is the result of Phyllis Kurtz Fine's experimentation with values of light on curved planes. In "Commentary", the play of daylight and shadow through the boundaries of the horizontal spaces cut in the column produces varied pattern changes.

Phyllis Kurtz Fine is represented in



Commentary by Phyllis Kurtz Fine.

permanent public collections including the Art Gallery of Ontario and many private collections. Her sculpture *Clockwork Black* (1975) is part of an exhibition of contemporary Canadian sculpture currently travelling to London, Paris, Brussels and the United States.

## Dance companies congregate

Montreal recently hosted an 11-day national dance festival which attracted 11 dance companies, several independent choreographers and many other artists.

*Octobre en Danse* featured a full-length performance by a different company each evening and a series of "mini-performances" and demonstrations by new choreographers.

As well, each afternoon there were workshops in music, sculpture, theatre, painting, mime, cinema and lighting.

Soloists from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens as well as Murray Louis, the Judy Jarvis Dance and Theatre Company, the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers, the Paula Ross Dancers, the Anna Wyman Dance Company, the Toronto Dance Theatre, the Danny Grossman Dance Company, Le Groupe de la Place Royale, Entre-Six, Le Groupe Nouvelle Aire, Anna Bleuchamps, Dina Davida, Iro Tembeck, Christina Coleman, Danse Partout, Vincent Dionne (music), Linda Rabin, Judy Marcuse, and Marcel Barbeau (painting) took part in *Octobre en Danse*.