

Under a continuing program of cultural relations with foreign countries, the Department of External Affairs announced today that a grant has been given to LE THEATRE DU NOUVEAU MONDE of Montreal for a tour of Europe and Africa. Their production of Quichotte will be abroad from 1 November to 20 December for a total of 35 performances in France, Belgium, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal and the Ivory Coast. The tour is a presentation of the Canadian Department of External Affairs with the assistance of the Touring Office of the Canada Council.

The Cervantes' classic "Don Quixotte" was first adapted into a one-act comedy in 1972 by TNM director, Jean-Pierre Ronfard. It has been a major success in performances across Canada and at the 1973 Festival de la Francophonie in Liège. Quichotte was originally produced by Les Jeunes Comédiens, a troupe now formally associated with and touring under the name of Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. M. Ronfard will be travelling with the original cast of seven actors plus Stage Director and Tour Manager, Jan-Rok Achard.

The tour opens with two weeks of performances in and around Paris. The schedule has been arranged through the Federation of Paris District Youth and Culture Centres. The six performances in Belgium will be divided between Arlon, Brussels and the medieval city of Tournai, where the company will be appearing in the ancient market centre, "La Halle aux Draps".

Quichotte is then scheduled for passage through North Africa and to Senegal and the Ivory Coast. The TNM will be the first External Affairs sponsored troupe to visit these countries. In Tunisia, the performances in Kairouan, Sfax, Sousse and Tunis have been organized with the assistance of the Cultural Affairs Ministry of the Tunisian government.

The Culture and Information Centre of Algeria will be host for TNM appearances in Annaba, Algiers, and Tizi-Ouzou; and, in Morocco, the National Theatre Company of the Mohammed V Theatre has assisted with booking arrangements for Rabat, Casablanca and El Jadida.

In Senegal, the play will be presented at the Daniel Serano Theatre in Dakar. The final performances of the tour will be given in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, at the French Cultural Centre.

In all countries, TNM performances will be under the auspices of the Canadian Embassy.