



Maggie Smith as Beatrice and Brian Bedford as Benedick in the 1980 production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Robin Phillips.



William Hutt in the title role of *Titus Andronicus*, directed by Brian Bedford in 1980.



Kate Reid starred in the 1980 Stratford production of *Bosoms and Neglect* by John Guare, directed by Mel Shapiro.

A National Theatre

"The word 'festive' is somewhat deceptive; to an American it suggests a hectic few summer weeks with a lot of actors brought together and hastily hammered into something resembling a cohesive ensemble. But Stratford, while it exerts its greatest public impact during the summer months, is actually active for most of the year, running its productions at its home base from early spring until late fall and touring some of its shows all over

the map. Thus, Stratford serves Canada as a national theatre, providing almost year-round employment to a large group of actors and production people, maintaining a more-or-less permanent theatrical nucleus, resting upon an extensive and well-funded training program for apprentices who appear in small roles and are later encouraged to try out for larger roles" Alan Rich, in *New York* magazine.