



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

No: 95  
No.: 95

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 30, 1981

APPOINTMENT OF JEAN HERBIET  
AS DIRECTOR OF THE  
CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE IN PARIS

The Department of External Affairs announced today the appointment of Jean Herbiet as Director of the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris. Mr. Herbiet is currently Director of French-language theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Jean Herbiet was born in Namur, Belgium, in 1930. He emigrated to Canada following completion of his studies in business administration and drama in Brussels and began his artistic career here in the late 1950s. He started as a drama teacher at the University of Ottawa where between 1958 and 1970, he staged more than 30 plays, earning the Gold Medal and Second prize in 1964 for the University's Drama Society at Nancy's International University Drama Festival for his staging of Ionesco's La Cantatrice chauve.

In 1967, Jean Herbiet was appointed associate-director of the University's Fine Arts Department. He set up, for both the French and English-language sections, studies programmes and numerous cultural activities in visual arts, cinema, theatre and music.

Mr. Herbiet joined the National Arts Centre in 1970 and, under his direction, French-language theatre there expanded rapidly. Including the 1980-81 season, he will have either produced or presented 180 plays for a total of 3,320 presentations to an audience of 1,144,602. Through his decentralization policy, the French-language theatre of the National Arts Centre performed in Canada from coast to coast.

.../2