

News of the arts

International screen personalities attend film festival

Montreal's first World Film Festival, recently held at the site of Expo '67, attracted international stars, directors and representatives of major film studios, as well as avid film students.

Gloria Swanson, whose film *Sunset Boulevard* was given retrospective attention, Canadian-born Fay Wray (star of the original *King Kong*, also screened), Richard Thomas, of *The Waltons* television series, Ingrid Bergman, Howard Hawks, and Jean-Luc Godard, of France, all appeared. Miss Bergman opened the festival in place of her late husband, Roberto Rossellini, who had been named honorary president of the festival before his death.

Serge Losique, head of the Conservatoire Cinematique in Montreal, founded the festival, which offered over 100 feature films, including several which received critical acclaim at Cannes, France. He also arranged the world *première* of six Canadian feature films: Timothy Bond's *Deadly Harvest*, Peter Carter's *Rituals*, Peter Sasdy's *Welcome to Blood City*, Denis Heroux' *The Uncanny*, Zale Dalen's *Skip Tracer*, and Robin Spry's *One Man*. The festival closely preceded Toronto's upcoming Festival of Festivals, a similar and competitive exhibition.

Novel ballet group

Dancemakers, a growing force in Canada's performing arts scene, is the first truly repertory dance company in Toronto. The company was formed by dancers from the Toronto Dance Theatre and York University — later, dancers from the National Ballet of Canada joined.

Consisting of four women and two men, the dancers choose with whom they wish to work and take on the responsibility of ensuring that quality is maintained. Diversity of choreographic styles and programming lends an eclecticism to Dancemakers' shows, with dances ranging from classical to humorous.

The company has attempted to develop a program which bridges the gap that a formal theatre situation creates between audience and performer. The show opens informally and is interspersed with explanations and participation. A discussion follows the last dance.

Museum's Discovery Room a "visual and tactile adventure"

The Royal Ontario Museum's newly opened Discovery Room brims with historical and natural artifacts and specimens which, for the first time, the visitor can handle and examine at leisure. The Discovery Room, an experiment that has been in preparation for more than a year, is another phase of the ROM's program of renovation and expansion. It is unique in that the visitor can learn at his own pace some of the processes that materials undergo when they are museum property.

Visitors, invited to use the basic investigative techniques used by ROM researchers, may examine strange artifacts called "stumpers", or probe the mysteries of "discovery boxes", dedicated to experiential learning and fun, and equipped



Two young explorers test the material on hand in the Discovery Room. They are looking up information on birds while referring to an actual specimen.



With the Discovery Room, the Museum opens itself to the blind in a way that it's never done before. Volunteers and staff working in the Transcriptions Department of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind have prepared Braille plates and cards to supplement the content of the room. (Above) visitors from the CNIB enjoy the "Touch Wall".

with question and answer cards. The most complex components in the Discovery Room are called "Identification Units". These packages are oriented to collectors and those more advanced in certain fields. With the help of the labelled specimens, microscopes and written material, the visitor can identify his own specimens.

The new room is also an international place of exploration. Information cards, labels and other material appear in French, Italian, Chinese, German and Portuguese and many of the museum staff assisting in the room also speak languages other than English.

Canadian performers offered protection from foreign competitors

Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen, after consultation with Secretary of State John Roberts, has announced the Government's intention to introduce measures to regulate more closely the entry of foreign entertainers coming to Canada for short-term engagements.

"At present," Mr. Cullen said, "foreign entertainers come to Canada for engagements regardless of whether qualified Canadians are available or not. The rules

that Canadian entertainers face when seeking work in foreign countries are much less generous."

The new system will be designed to support the development of Canada's entertainment industry and to benefit Canadian performing artists. "I want to make it clear," Mr. Cullen said, "that my Department has no intention of preventing Canadians from working with or seeing the best talent available whether Can-