

News of the arts

World Film Festival in Montreal

The first World Film Festival of Canada, which will highlight some 110 feature films from 20 countries, will be held from August 19 to 28 in Montreal at Man and His World, the site of Expo '67.

Serge Losique, director of the festival, who has just returned from Hollywood and the Cannes Film Festival where he confirmed international participation, said the festival would be dedicated to Italian director Roberto Rossellini, who died recently. Mr. Rossellini had announced at Cannes that he had accepted the honorary presidency of the World Film Festival in Montreal.

With the death of Mr. Rossellini, Mr. Losique announced that famed French director René Clair and Norman Jewison, the Canadian who gained an international reputation in Hollywood, had accepted the honorary presidency of the festival.

Two firsts on opening night

The Montreal international festival will open with the world première of the German director Werner Herzog's new film, *Stroszek*. Opening night audiences will also see the Canadian première of the controversial Japanese film *Realm of the Senses*.

The World Film Festival will be divided into nine events: the official selection including 20 major films in the world, North American or Canadian premières; Canada 1977, ten new Canadian films; special tributes to Howard Hawks, Sir Laurence Olivier and Federico Fellini; homage to the Japanese cinema of today; Canadians in Hollywood, including the work of Norman Jewison, Fay Wray, Geneviève Bujold, Lorne Greene, Arthur Hiller and Ted Kotcheff; independent film-makers, perspectives of French cinema 1977; special events, the popular films at Place des Nations; and an international film market.

Participating nations

The countries which have so far indicated they will send films and delegations are the United States, France, Algeria, Kuwait, Hungary, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Israel, Japan, Australia,

Portugal, Italy, Lebanon, Argentina, India, the U.S.S.R., and Canada.

Members of the advisory committee for the festival include some of the most prominent people in the international film field: Maurice Bessy, director of the Cannes Film Festival; Pierre-Henri Deleau of the Directors Fortnight at Cannes; Jacques Poitrenaud, head of Perspectives of French Cinema at Cannes; Mrs. K. Kawakita, president, Japan Film Library Council; Michael Spencer, executive director, Canadian Film Development Corporation; James Card of George Eastman House, Rochester; André Guimond, Hollywood correspondent for *La Presse*; David Novek, director, public relations, National Film Board of Canada; Galdino Gomez Gomez of the Cinemateca Mexicana; and Stan Brakhage, leading independent film-maker.

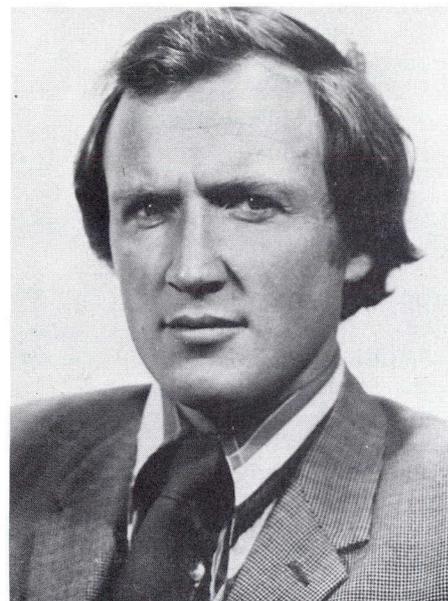
Some 20 screenings will take place each day during the ten-day festival, Mr. Losique said. Two officially selected films will be screened each night and then shown again the following afternoon. Admission prices will be kept as low as possible so that the screenings will be within reach of most people. "We want this to be a popular festival," the director stated.

Canadian prize for journalism awarded in Australia

Canada's Department of External Affairs and the Australian National Press Club recently announced that the first Canadian Award for Journalistic Merit had been won by Michael Richardson, Southeast Asian correspondent for *The Melbourne Age*.

The award for journalistic merit, announced in September 1976 during the visit to Australia of Allan J. MacEachen, then Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, is an annual prize given to the Australian journalist or medium judged highest in excellence reporting on international affairs in the Pacific region.

Mr. Richardson flew in from his base in Singapore to receive an Eskimo carving from Canadian High Commissioner J.J. McCardle, at a ceremony at the National Press Club in Canberra on June 14. Mr. Richardson's name will be the first engraved on the permanent trophy held by the Club, which administers the award.



Michael Richardson

Mr. Richardson, a native of Melbourne, joined *The Age* in 1967 and two years later was transferred to the newspaper's Canberra bureau. Since he was appointed Southeast Asian correspondent in 1971, Mr. Richardson has covered a beat extending from Indo-China to the Indian sub-continent to Indonesia and the Philippines, from his Singapore base.

Mr. Richardson will visit Canada, as a guest of the Canadian Government later this year, as part of a continuing program of visits by foreign journalists to Canada, sponsored by the Department of External Affairs. The visits are designed to familiarize foreign journalists with Canada.

National Ballet at the Met.

The National Ballet of Canada will perform a guest engagement at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, this month.

The company will give 12 performances from July 12 to July 23 with guest artists Fernando Bujones of the American Ballet Theatre and Peter Schaufuss of the New York City Ballet. The repertoire will include the company's recently mounted version of Frederick Ashton's *La Fille Mal Gardée*, Peter Wright's *Giselle*, Erik Bruhn's *Swan Lake* and a program of one-act ballets. Mr. Bujones, who appeared as guest artist with the National Ballet during its spring season