



Bulletin

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THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE OF CANADA

A two-week Festival of the Arts will mark the opening on June 2 of Canada's National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The aim of the Centre is to foster the development of the performing arts in Canada, coordinating the movement of musical and theatrical troupes across the country and abroad.

In February 1963, the National Capital Arts Alliance was formed to investigate the possibility of establishing the proposed Centre in Ottawa. As Canada's capital, visited by more than 600,000 tourists a year and situated within commuting distance of Toronto and Montreal, Ottawa seemed to be the ideal location.

The Alliance, which represented 55 artistic groups in the Ottawa-Hull area, presented its recommendations to the Federal Government in November 1963 and, in December of that year, it was announced that the main recommendations of the report had received acceptance in principle. In July 1966, an Act of Parliament established a corporation for the administration of the National Arts Centre, of which Mr. Hamilton Southam was made director-general.

The new Centre, one of the most sophisticated showcases for the performing arts in North America, is made up of a series of hexagonal buildings erected on six-and-a-half acres of terraced land on the east side of Confederation Square, overlooking the Rideau Canal and in full view of the Parliament Buildings.

The Centre includes a 2,300-seat opera house that will serve as a concert hall as well, an 800-seat theatre, a 300-seat experimental studio, and a hexagonal, wood-panelled hall or salon that will seat up to 100 persons. The opera house is equipped for performances by the world's largest companies and for the most lavish productions. In the theatre, productions can be presented behind the proscenium

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arch or thrust into the auditorium on an apron stage. The studio is equipped for multi-media productions — a challenge to dramatists to explore untried forms and styles of theatre.

A gourmet restaurant, a café and a coffee-shop will provide dining and refreshment facilities for theatre-goers, and a three-storey underground garage will accommodate 900 cars.

WORLD PREMIÈRE OF NEW BALLET

Kraanerg, a ballet by the noted French choreographer Roland Petit, commissioned for the occasion, with original music by the renowned composer Iannis Xenakis, will have its world première at the gala opening on June 2. The title, derived from the Greek words "kraan" ("man's desire"), and "erg", ("energy"), suggests the play's theme — the inadequacy of man to reach his goals.

The National Ballet of Canada (Toronto) will perform the new work. The company was formed by Celia Franca, one of the finest dramatic dancers of the Sadler's Wells Ballet, at the invitation of the National Ballet Guild of Toronto. With a yearly budget exceeding \$1 million, the National Ballet has a repertoire of 65 ballets, and comprises a company