

(June 11) and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (June 12).

Jean Gascon will direct Moliere's classic and the noted Canadian artist, Robert Prevost, will do the designs for the production.

John Hirsch, will stage *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with Leslie Hurry, the distinguished British painter, as designer.

The fourth production opens later in the season on July 22. A new adaptation of Alexander Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*, will enlist the talents of director John Hirsch, designer Desmond Heeley and playwright Peter Raby.

At the handsome and newly-refurbished Avon Theatre, the season opens on July 5 with the Stratford Festival Opera Company's production of Rossini's opera, *La Cenerentola (Cinderella)*, sung in English.

#### WINNIPEG BALLET

Four days later, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Canada's most widely-known theatrical attraction, opens its new repertoire.

Two modern plays, *The Seagull*, and *Waiting for Godot*, will also be staged at the Avon Theatre. Jean Gascon will direct the Chekhov drama and the distinguished Canadian actor-director, William Hutt, will direct Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, probably the first postwar work to achieve classic stature.

Designs for both productions are by Brian Jackson.

#### MUSIC

Concerts will include internationally-acclaimed artists, singers, instrumentalists, composers, conductors and jazz musicians, during the Sunday afternoon series from July 7 to August 25. From July 13 to August 10, chamber music, classical and contemporary and including four specially-commissioned works by Canadian composers, will be performed by resident members of the National Festival Orchestra and selected guest artists.

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#### HIRING HANDICAPPED PERSONS

John J. Carson, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, has announced that, as part of a continuing programme of employing handicapped persons, the Commission is starting a pilot project in the Ottawa area that will encourage the hiring of mentally-retarded persons by the public service.

Realizing that such persons cannot participate competitively to gain entrance into the public service, the PSC has obtained from the Governor-in-Council authority to exclude these people from the initial competitive process.

#### PROBATION PERIOD

They will have a probationary period of a year, during which the staff of the local association for the retarded will follow their progress closely and provide any assistance that may be necessary. Advancement to a higher level, however, will mean that such a person must proceed through the normal competitive process.

The Commission has always encouraged the employment of handicapped persons such as those suffering from loss of hearing, impaired vision or a physical disability. This new phase is a continuation of the policy that the public service should hire employees on the basis of ability and not disability when considering handicapped persons.

#### PRACTICE IN INDUSTRY

Private industry has, for some time, employed mentally-retarded persons in elementary jobs that are often hard to fill. The results have shown that these people can do a competent job. The Commission believes that mentally-retarded persons can be gainfully employed in such jobs as helpers in the cleaning and maintenance of buildings; helpers in printing shops or helpers in building construction where they can assist in loading or unloading material and other related jobs. They might also be used in some clerical duties such as messengers, clerical assistants, helpers in the mail rooms or duplicating machine operators.