

## One Robin Has Made A Spring

THE STRATFORD FESTIVAL began in 1952 with a six-week summer season. Its two plays, *Richard III* and *All's Well That Ends Well*, were an immediate success. Today the Festival performs in Stratford, Ontario from June to October and often goes on tour during the winter months. The town has three theatres: the original, refurbished Festival, the Avon in the centre of downtown, and the Third Stage which is more experimental than the others. The Stratford Festival has a budget of over \$3 million and, most recently, has acquired a new Artistic Director, Robin Phillips.

O. B. Hardison, a distinguished scholar and the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, reviews Mr. Phillips' first season.

Stratford's summer Shakespeare Festival is, according to Clive Barnes of the *New York*

*Brian Bedford played Angelo and Martha Henry was Isabella at the Stratford Festival's Measure for Measure last summer.*

*Times*, "the best resident theatre company in North America," and Canadians and other Festival visitors have been awaiting the inaugural season of the Festival's new Artistic Director, Robin Phillips, with anticipation and anxiety. Phillips, an Englishman, is a product of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and he compounded these outrages by announcing his intention to shake up the company and refurbish the stage. To followers of the founder, Sir Tyrone Guthrie, this was a little like announcing plans to refurbish Niagara Falls.

Robin Phillips emerged a winner. For anyone interested in Shakespeare and the theatre, this summer Stratford, Ontario was the centre of North America.

Reviews abounded with words like "shimmering," "stunning," "a delight," "wizardy" and

