

# Britain embraces Canadian 'style'



## 'Brace yourself, London. The Canadians are coming.'

This message from a recent edition of the *Toronto Star* does not herald a visit by Canada's national ice-hockey team, nor a second appearance this year by the Canadian Mounties. Instead, the event that London is bracing itself for is a celebration of Canadian arts and culture, due to start at the end of September and run through to the end of October.

Canada may still have an image of moose and mountains, but the reality goes far beyond that narrow cliché. A nation that has produced jazz musicians like Oscar Peterson, conductors like Charles Dutoit, ballerinas like Lynn Seymour, actors like Christopher Plummer, and writers like Robertson Davies is clearly not one confined to the outdoors.

Canada is also a country of artists and designers with fresh, exciting ideas, and it is their work that will be on display in London this autumn.

## Fashion show at Liberty will launch festival of art and design

The celebration of Canadian art and design will begin September 27 with a Gala Fashion Show at Liberty of Regent Street. During the following three weeks, some 6000 square feet of this famous store – and its Regent Street display windows – will be devoted to Canadian-designed and Canadian-made products.

The focus of the event will fall on Canadian fashion, featuring a range of clothing and accessories chosen by Liberty buyers during buying trips to Canada. Also on display will be a selection of Canadian furniture, ceramics, folk art, fine art and food – again selected by Liberty buyers during a series of visits to Canada earlier this year.

The Gala Fashion Show will serve as a launch pad for other Canadian cultural events – including a Canadian Jazz Evening at Ronnie Scott's, and the South Bank debut of Oliver Jones – hailed as the new Oscar Peterson – at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The foyer of the South Bank Centre will also be the venue for a number of young Canadian musical artists, and will culminate in an evening concert. The musical events will be rounded off by the Festival of the Sound musicians; they will give three concerts at the Wigmore Hall, featuring the celebrated clarinet player, James Campbell.

Canadian art will be represented by a retrospective of Joyce Wieland, the country's leading female artist and film-maker, at the Canada House Gallery in Trafalgar Square. The AIR Gallery will feature work by Vera Frankel; and the Chisenhale Gallery will put on an exhibition of 17 Canadian artists, including the Vancouver video artist Paul Wong. Sunil Gupta's photographic exhibition, 'Social Security', will be held at the Showroom Gallery, also in London.

## Festival will include architecture, literature and film

Few British people are aware that the new Paris Opera House (l'Opéra Bastille) was designed by a Canadian – the world-famous architect Carlos Ott.

Throughout the celebration of Canadian design, a model of this prestigious building will be on view at the South Bank Centre. This exhibition is co-sponsored by the Canadian High Commission and the French Embassy in London.

Meanwhile, two Canadian films – *Twins* and *Family Viewing* – will have their London premieres and a season of films by Canadian producer Rock Demers, called *Tales for All*, will be screened at the ICA.

Farley Mowat is expected to be in town to launch his new book *Woman in the Mists*, a biography of Dian Fossey. Robertson Davies' new book *The Lyre of Orpheus* will also be published in the UK at this time, and it would be difficult to choose a better person to represent Canadian letters than this distinguished novelist, who was shortlisted for the Booker Prize two years ago. In addition, Aritha van Herk's *No Fixed Address* will also make its UK debut.

Finally, in a return to the theme of fashion, Canada House will host a one-day conference on fashion design education in Canada and the UK. The participants will be drawn from St Martin's School, the Royal College of Design and the London School of Fashion and the Ryerson School of Design in Toronto.

All these events – and a few more besides – are previewed in more detail in the rest of this issue of *Canada Today*.



Right:  
Babel

