

arts

'Anne of Green Gables' captivates audience

This year's production of Canada's perennial favorite, "Anne" opened Tuesday night to a completely packed Jubilee Auditorium. Noticeable almost immediately was the fact that the Jubilee is too big a place to successfully present live theatre, be it a play or a musical.

Somebody had the brilliant idea to mike the actor's songs but the operator had alternately too heavy a hand on the volume control or he didn't seem to be aware that somebody was speaking.

The sets were all good, simple but effective, starting with a backprop near the front of the stage with a pattern of varicoloured flowers in stripes of different colours. The famous bright green "house" set was there in all its splendour while most of the gossip 'scenelets' took place before a backdrop painted to resemble a patchwork quilt reminiscent of the stories of the old time quilting bees where all the ladies caught up on all the latest gossip.

Malorie-Ann Spiller portrays Anne delightfully and seems likely, in the tradition of every "Anne", to captivate audiences wherever she goes. She alternates between the excited, overimaginative little girl and the maturing young lady growing up in turn-of-the-century Prince Edward Island.

Miss Spiller's young co-star, Calvin McRae as Gilbert, is a slightly more restrained male counterpart of Anne and plays the part well, being a good dancer and singer.

Anne's guardians Marilla (Elizabeth Matson) and Mathew Cuthbert (George Merner), are an elderly brother and sister. Mathew is often intimidated by Marilla but is captivated by the little red-haired orphan and manages to slip around his sister on matters involving Anne. Even Marilla gets to love her although she, like Matthew, can't find the words.

The other characters help

fill out the stage and include Francois-Regis as Mr. Phillips, the schoolmaster, who is a great parody of the typical teacher; Roma Hearn as Mrs. Blewett, who is a slovenly housewife; Mary Trainor as Diana Barry, Anne's best friend, who is rather a null character, serving more to give Anne a shadow than anything else; Jose Pye (Sheila McCarthy), Anne's rival in love, who provided a laugh by tripping over one of the mike cords; and Mrs. Pye, Edda Ghurek, Josie's mother, who remarks during the school concert, "Isn't that clever. They wrote their own history."

There was one scene in particular that was most entertaining. The "School Concert" which includes some good business with the "curtain" and the Eskimo's "igloo", reminiscent of many high school plays. In one other scene Diana comes over to visit Anne for a tea party which is a delightful parody of those of their elders. As they say, "We'll be like grownups...sit here and say things we don't mean."

As Anne says after the school concert, "The good thing about a scholarship is that it announces to all the world that you've got a bit of sense. I wasn't sure before."

The choreography was well done throughout especially the Sunday School picnic and school sequences.

The tour crew also must be quite good since I learned that "Anne" closes in Edmonton at 11 p.m. Wednesday and opens again in Calgary on Thursday at 8 p.m.!

The orchestra was good although since it was hard to hear the actors at times, it did intrude in places.

At the end of the play, Anne and Gilbert are making up. She says, "...we are going to be good friends." And he replies, "I don't see why not. 'We've been good enemies.'"

Brian McCullough



Fonteyn - a legend in the dance world

World-famous ballerina Margot Fonteyn will appear at the Jubilee Auditorium this Friday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

As guest artist with the New London Ballet, Miss Fonteyn will be partnered by Heinz Bosl, Principle Dancer with the Bavarian State Opera of Munich.

Margot Fonteyn's dedication to her art, her public and life has made her a

legendary figure in the dance world. To millions of people around the world, she remains prima ballerina assoluta. She has also been called "the enchantress" for her three unassailable qualities: her flawless musicality, her beauty and the innate ability to never make a flashy gesture.

She began dancing classes at the tender age of four and by the time she was nine, had become a pupil at the Sadler's Wells School.

Fonteyn had danced the lead in Frederick Ashton's "Rio Grande" by the time she was 16 and her continued association with the choreographer over the years was to prove the inspiration for many more outstanding works for her including "Cinderella", "Sylvia", "Ondine", "Daphnis and Chloe" and "Marguerite and Armande." Before she was 20 the young

dancer, under the watchful eye of Ninette de Valois, had begun her conquest of the roles of the great classical ballets: Odette/Odile in "Swan Lake", "Giselle" and Aurora in "The Sleeping Beauty".

Fonteyn's career has lasted far beyond the short duration usual in an art that depends on physical mastery - but rather than any loss of purely technical skills, audiences on six continents have seen a growth of expressiveness and of artistic maturity. Her dancing is poetry in movement and like a great actress she becomes the character she dances. The magnificence of her dancing, her ability to project a large emotional range, her musicality and her dramatic powers combine to produce a performance of breathtaking beauty.

Calgary's One Third Ninth

The Edmonton Chamber Music Society will open its 1974-75 concert series on Wednesday, Oct. 2 with One Third Ninth.

One Third Ninth is a Calgary trio featuring Moshe Hammer, violin, Gloria Saarinen, piano, and John Kadz, cello.

Last year the trio took part in the Artists-in-Residence program, a new and unique musical venture of the Alberta Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. For a period of ten months, they stayed in a number of Alberta communities for two to four day visits, giving

concerts, workshops and teaching, as a chamber ensemble and as soloists.

One Third Ninth will perform Beethoven's "Trio No. 8 in B flat, Op. Post.", Ravel's "Trio" and Tchaikovsky's "Trio in A minor, Op. 50" at Convocation Hall, commencing at 8:30 p.m.

Admission to the concert is by season membership only. Season tickets are available at The Students' Union Box Office and at the Department of Music (room 3-28, Fine Arts Building). Membership rates are \$15 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and full-time students.

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

This new weekly column attempts to assist you in picking what might be some of the better TV productions of the up-coming week. It will focus on movies, political and cultural specials and the odd music show.

Unfortunately we can only provide you at this point with the program of CBXT (Channel Five) and CBXFT (Channel 11). The Gateway hopes to expand its TV coverage with the help of the other TV stations in the near future.

Friday, September 27

Belafonte Canada

Harry Belafonte stars in a special TV concert so named because the cameras capture him and his international assembly of singers and musicians performing new and favorite material in six Canadian cities this summer during the ensemble's cross-country tour. (Channel 5)

Saturday, September 28

Cinema: "Les Oiseaux" (The Birds) - Horror drama

produced by Alfred Hitchcock, with "Tippi" Hedren, Rod Taylor and Jessica Tandy, based on the novel by Daphne du Maurier. A young girl holidaying in San Francisco, is attacked by a gull. Later a large group of birds savagely attack some school children. (USA '63) (Channel 11)

CTV Academy Performance - Face-Off - the poignant story of the love and conflict between two beautiful people who "play" in radically different games. Trudy Young and Art Hindle star. George Armstrong, Derek Sanderson, John Vernon, Austin Willis and Frank Moore appear in major supporting roles. (Channel 5)

Sunday, September 29

Cine Club: "La Nuit" - Psychological drama produced by Michelangelo Antonioni, with Heanne Moreau, Marcello Mastroianni, Monica Vitti and Bernard Wicky. Upon visiting a

dying friend in the hospital, a couple reflects on the quality of their married life. (FR/IT 60) (Channel 11)

Monday, September 30

Catch As Can - This story features the sailing ship "Provident", owned by the Maritime Trust and used by the Island Sailing Club of Salcombe, and the Danish fully-rigged training ship "Danmark" one of the largest and most beautiful sailing ships still afloat. Captain Hanson of the "Danmark" and Captain Macreth ("Charlotte Rhodes") co-operated in a dangerous and thrilling race in which the smaller ship overtook the large trans-Atlantic clipper. (Channel 5)

Wednesday, October 2

Cinema: "La Grande Guerre 1914 - 1918" - Documentary produced by Solange Peter, with commentators Renaud Mary and Roger Pigault. Documentary on World War 1. (FR/ALL) (Channel 11)