

News of the arts

National Ballet's autumn season

The National Ballet of Canada held its 1980 fall season at Toronto's O'Keefe Centre, November 12-30. The three week season included the world *première* of *Newcomers* choreographed by Brian Macdonald and commissioned by Imperial Oil to mark its one-hundredth anniversary, and the Toronto *première* of company choreographer James Kudelka's *Playhouse*.

The first week of performances included: *La Sylphide*, a romantic ballet with choreography by Erik Bruhn after August Bournonville, and *Playhouse* an abstract work by James Kudelka.

During the second week the mixed program comprised: *Les Patineurs*, Frederick Ashton's ballet of a turn-of-the-century skating party; *Newcomers*, a work that explores the experience of being a newcomer, of man facing unknown territory and the unknown in himself, and *Mad Shadows*, the symbolic story of violence and love in a rural Quebec family, with choreography by Ann Ditchburn. The company performed *La fill mal gardée* during the final week of the season.

Theatre school to go to Bermuda

The National Theatre School of Canada has been invited to take its production of *The Rivals* to the 1981 Bermuda Festival in February.

The Bermuda Festival, currently in its sixth year, is a general arts festival incorporating top artists of international calibre and promising new artists, in all disciplines — theatre, music and dance. In addition to the National Theatre School, this year's program includes Julian Bream, Mummenschanz, Count Basie, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Joffrey II Ballet, Jessie Norman, Garrick Ohlsson, and the Canadian hit production of *Billy Bishop Goes to War* starring Cedric Smith.

The Rivals will be acted, designed and run by students at the school, under the direction of Derek Goldby.

The actors who are in their third year of the English acting course, have trained together from the beginning as an "ensemble". The sets and costumes for *The Rivals* have been designed by William Schmück.

NFB office to open in Los Angeles

The National Film Board (NFB) will open an office in Los Angeles in 1981 to provide assistance to the various sectors of Canadian cinema, Government Film Commissioner and NFB Chairman James de B. Domville has announced. The office will further the implementation of the NFB's international mandate.

It is also expected to improve contacts between Canadian and American professionals, provide greater access to reliable film information, stimulate the development of production and distribution projects to mutual advantage. In addition, the Los Angeles office will promote Canadian films and facilitate access to professional talents and services available in Canada.

Roland Ladouceur will become director of the new office. For ten years, he served as manager of the NFB offices in Paris and New York. He was director of public relations for the NFB prior to his new appointment in Los Angeles.

Film groups form alliance

A group of independent film organizations from across Canada have formed an alliance following meetings in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

The new organization, the Independent Film Alliance du Cinéma Indépendant, will deal with issues affecting independent film-makers, said John Doyle, chairman of the eight-member steering committee.

Mr. Doyle said the organization, formed during a conference of Canadian independent film-makers, will operate on little money and lots of energy.

"We want it to be effective, to let us communicate and lobby, but be loose enough so no one would feel crushed by a central organization. I think that's what we've got," he said.

The only provincial film group not covered by the umbrella of the alliance is l'Association du Vidéo et du Cinéma du Québec. However, a strong affiliation between the two bodies has been established.

Canadian museum receives gift of American art



Dr. James E. Cruise (left) and Peter Kaellgren (right) of the Royal Ontario Museum examine three floral glass paperweights donated to the museum by American Paul Stankard in recognition of the Canadian Embassy's aid to the six Americans caught in Iran. The custom-made weights depict apple blossoms, a tropical orchid and blackberries with blossoms; "Thank You Canada" is engraved on the bases of two of the weights. Mr. Stankard is one of the United States' leading glass artists and his work is found in many glass collections including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.