

EDUCATION

SINGAPORE STUDENTS IN CANADA

It's a Wednesday afternoon at the Canadian High Commission in Singapore and a group of students is listening to a student counsellor describe schools and programs of study available in Canada.

They've come to learn what Canada has to offer. Some are completing their "A" levels. Others have finished national service. Still others are interested in pursuing graduate studies.

Most who attend the counselling sessions haven't yet made up their minds. Perhaps they've heard from friends studying in Vancouver, Calgary or Toronto, so they want more information. Or they're checking out what Canada offers in comparison to the USA, Australia or the UK. One

thing is certain — Singaporeans take their education seriously.

The student counsellor at the Canadian High Commission is Mrs Mary Anne Lee. She works on a part-time basis, giving the introductory counselling sessions twice a month and seeing students on an individual basis by appointment. She is familiar with both the Singaporean and Canadian school systems. A Canadian graduate with two teenage daughters, Mrs Lee understands education from both a student's and a parent's perspective.

Students who are considering pursuing their education in Canada are encouraged to attend a counselling session for an overview of the Canadian education system. Those

students who wish to attend university in Canada should make use of the High Commission's library which holds calendars from each of the different schools, describing in detail the institution and courses of study offered. For more personalized attention, students can make an appointment to see Mrs Lee.

At present, there are over 1,500 Singaporean students in Canada. With over 87 universities and colleges in Canada offering a thousand different courses of study, there is indeed something for everyone.

So if you're interested in studying in Canada, contact the Canadian Embassy or High Commission in your country for more details.

GOING GLOBAL — Business and Education in Partnership

One of the most important factors that will determine the success of Singapore's efforts to "Go Global" is the development and education of skilled international managers capable of operating complex businesses in a wide range of markets. To this end, the "Going Global — Business and Education in Partnership" conference was held at the Singapore Polytechnic on October 27, 1990. Its purpose was to highlight opportunities and constraints experienced in enhancing management expertise for the development of international business in Singapore.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Canadian High Commission and Singapore Polytechnic, brought together eminent speakers from the industry, business and education sectors. Mr Bernard Gagosz, High Commissioner for Canada, and Mr Khoo Kay-Chai, Principal of Singapore Polytechnic, were the keynote speakers. On the Canadian side, speakers included Ms Terry Gillies, Executive Director of the Canadian Business Association of Singapore; Mr Dick Gold, Deputy Executive Director of the Canada-ASEAN Center; and Dr Randy Spence, Senior Program Officer at the International Development Research Center.

From Singapore, speeches were presented by Mr Wong Kok Siew, President of Singapore Technologies; Mr George Abraham, Secretary-General of the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Soh Eng Sim, Head of the Department of Business Administration at Singapore Polytechnic; Mr Graham Hayward, Executive Director of the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce; Mr Garry Ng, Honorary Secretary of the Association of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises; and Ms Gudrun Bjorno, Executive Director of the Export Institute of Singapore.

Conference chairmen Doug Taylor of Singapore Polytechnic and Kris Panday of the Canadian High Commission estimated that there were over 450 people in attendance. These included professionals from the business community and lecturers and students from the Polytechnic.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for the Canadian High Commission and the Canadian community to work in close cooperation with a local tertiary institution in an effort that hopefully will be the precursor to many more joint ventures of this nature.



THE ARTS

Ballet British Columbia Takes Manila and Jakarta by Storm

Ballet British Columbia arrived in Manila when the city was literally under water. A flash typhoon had struck and life seemed to have stopped with traffic snarls and floods across the city. It was thus a daunting welcome for the four-year-old ballet group on its first international tour, which also took it to Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan and Japan after the Philippines.

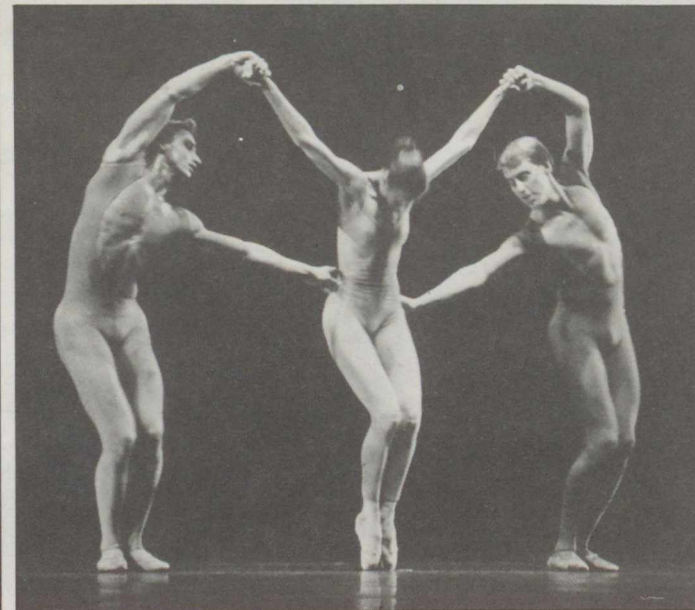
Yet the group's first appearances on Manila's ballet stage will be long remembered for the full houses at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on September 3 and 4, 1990, and the superb performances described by critics as innovative, captivating, intense and lyrical. Ballet B. C.'s outstanding and refreshing presentations featured William Forsythe's provocative *Lovesongs-Old Records-Side One*, Jiri Kylian's poetic *Return to the Strange Land*; and John Alpay's mesmerizing *Go Slow Walter*.

Ballet B. C.'s three performances in Jakarta from September 17 to 19, were equally memorable. They were by far the most outstanding performances in the first Jakarta International Performing Arts Festival, as they danced to packed houses in the 450-seat Jakarta Playhouse. Organized by Ms Farida Feisol of Gedung Kesenian Jakarta, the Festival was held from June through September with participants from 15 countries.

The Indonesian critics were equally fulsome in their praise as they marvelled at the group's superb control of ballet techniques as well as the unusual program. As one reviewer noted: "[T]he Ballet British Columbia presented a whole new concept of ballet which came as an exotic dish."

In both Manila and Jakarta, the warm response from the packed houses was a tribute to the artistic excellence of Ballet British Columbia.

1. Ballet British Columbia's performances in Manila were a once-in-a-lifetime treat for the street children of Manila, who attended courtesy of the Canadian Embassy. The children came from a project run by Alain Pronovost, a Canadian social worker
2. The lyrical *Return to the Strange Land*



From left to right: Laura, Ms Berton's daughter; Penny Berton, Veronica Tennant; Leila Djafaar, of the Canadian Embassy; Jessica, Ms Tennant's daughter; and John Wright

CANADA'S NATIONAL TREASURE VISITS BALI

Veronica Tennant, a former principal ballerina of the National Ballet of Canada, visited Bali from August 17 to 23, 1990. Ms Tennant, who has been acclaimed as Canada's "National Treasure", is now a writer, creative consultant and host of a new series on CBC television called *Sunday Arts Entertainment*.

On her first trip to Bali, Ms Tennant decided to direct two films for CBC television: one on the life of a young and energetic Balinese mask-maker and mask-dancer, Ida Bagus Anom, the other on Penny Berton, daughter of the famous Canadian writer Pierre Berton, who is a jewellery designer and has been living in Ubud for more than 14 years now.

Accompanied by her husband Dr John Wright and her 12-year-old daughter, Jessica Robin, Ms Tennant also had time to see various exquisite dance performances, to experience the richness of Balinese culture and to attend a cremation ceremony of the teacher of most Balinese priests — an impressive and rare opportunity. Such people-to-people programs will benefit not only the Canadian public but also the Indonesian public as each is learning about the other's culture.