

# News of the arts

## Canadian film wins UNESCO award at youth festival



Radio-Canada's vice-president and director-general Pierre Desroche (left) presents the UNESCO prize to Daniel Bertolino (centre) while Radio-Canada's chief of youth services Pierre Monette (right) looks on.

The film, *Pitchi, le rouge-gorge* directed by Canadian film director Daniel Bertolino, won the fourth International Youth Award at the 1982 Munich Festival, marking the first time a film presented by Radio-Canada's youth section has won a prize at the festival.

The prize has been awarded by the German Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization since 1966 for a television program which promotes an unbiased and genuine communication among different nations and their cultures.

The Munich Festival, held every two years, is considered to be a significant world festival for youth-oriented programs. Some 43 countries and 285 delegates participated in this year's festival and selected the Canadian film from among 100 programs.

### Indian tale told

*Pitchi, le rouge-gorge* is one of 13 films in the series *Canadian Indian Legends* that was produced by Daniel Bertolino and Via Le Monde Productions in cooperation with Radio-Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Institut québécois du cinéma (Quebec Film Institute).

The series of legends was designed to

make the viewer aware of the strong identity, rich culture and way of thinking of the various Indian nations which inhabit eastern Canada in particular. Each segment presents part of a legend recreated on the basis of advice given by elders, medicine men, singers and musicians. All actors and extras are Indians.

*Pitchi, le rouge-gorge* tells the story of Nénominee, who wants his son to be a brave warrior even though the boy is more inclined to become an artist. In the end, the father understands that everyone can and must do what his heart tells him.

### Distributed worldwide

The *Canadian Indian Legends* series has been distributed to 11 countries: France, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Algeria, Britain, Norway, Denmark, Venezuela, Mexico and Suriname.

Daniel Bertolino has written and directed 139 documentaries in a number of countries during the past 15 years. He has won several prizes, including a silver medal at the New York Film Festival in 1975 for the film *Me No Savey*, which dealt with the Papuans of New Guinea. He is currently working on a film adaptation of Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber's book *Le Défi mondial* (The World Challenge).

## SummerFest enjoys bright season

Edmonton's third annual SummerFest, a music and arts show, was one of the city's more popular attractions this year drawing between 80 000 and 90 000 people.

More than 1 000 performers, mainly Albertans, participated in the festival. The new Fringe Theatre attracted some 8 000 people to 220 shows presented in five performing areas, in the Old Strathcona district on the city's south side.

Organizer of the event Brian Paisley said he plans to present 300 shows in seven locations next year. The Fringe generated \$25 000 for the 45 acting, musical and mime groups which participated in the venture.

In addition, more than 2 000 people attended the Chinook Theatre's presentation of *The Odyssey* in the festival's tent, said Mr. Paisley.

Jazz concerts, which grossed more than \$140 000, were an "overwhelming success", said Jazz City's promotion coordinator Darryl Carriou.

Folk Festival artistic director Don Whalen also reported a brisk business. A total of 12 000 people passed through the Gallagher Park gates this year, compared with 7 500 in 1981.

Gavin Farmer, Edmonton Opera Association's manager of opera in schools and communities, said he was pleased with the success of this year's presentations in the tent. About 10 000 spectators attended the six performances of *The Merry Widow* and *HMS Pinafore*, compared with about 8 000 who saw last year's two presentations of *The Mikado*.

## Arts briefs

The Canadian Opera Company presented its third annual Summer Festival at Harbourfront, Toronto featuring newcomers to the Opera Company Ensemble in productions of *Carmen*, *Don Pasquale*, *Die Fledermaus* and *La Boheme*. Sears, Allstate and Imperial Oil sponsored the festival.

Nick Mancuso of Toronto, recently received the best actor award at the Houston International Film Festival for his performance of a Moonie in the Canadian film *Ticket to Heaven*, directed by Ralph Thomas. The award for best short film was taken by *Crac*, the Oscar-winning animated film by Radio-Canada's Frederic Back.