

the company's home season at the Premier Dance Theatre. It will also be featured in the company's 1998 Asian tour.

CYAP also featured nine collective projects to bring together contributions from various Asian cultures around one unifying theme. An excellent illustration of this was *Fishing Baskets of the Asia Pacific*, an exhibition of contemporary hand-crafted fishing baskets, nets and traps from around the region. To maximize public viewing, the exhibition visited several locations across Canada and included a school outreach program. As visitors to the exhibit learned, ninety percent of the fish protein consumed around the world comes from small nets and baskets, such as the ones on display. The exhibit provided an excellent opportunity to inform Canadians about one of the most important facets of Asia Pacific's lifestyle and its customs.

*Fashioning Textiles*, a collaborative exhibition of emerging Asia Pacific and Canadian fashion designers was launched in September in Ottawa, coinciding with APEC SME Week. Emerging designers from countries as diverse as India, New Zealand, Korea and the People's Republic of China, as well as two Canadians, made innovative creations using their country's indigenous fibres, including Chinese silks and banana fibre from Japan. Others created works that made cultural statements through use of new technologically-driven materials. Clearly, the exhibit built and strengthened Canada's ties with Asia Pacific, establishing new networks for designers, as well as the textile and fashion industries. The event also served as a venue to bring together women business leaders, local personalities, the arts community, and APEC small business people - with no shortage of conversation pieces. Throughout the year, the interest generated by CYAP provided Canada's cultural industry, which employs over 900,000 people, with new audiences at home, and also new opportunities for partnerships in Asia Pacific.

But most importantly, these festivals, screenings, performances, and exhibits entertained and informed Canadians. As many came to realize in 1997, cultural understanding and human relationships are paramount in Asia Pacific. The cultural component of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific helped Canadians to understand the people of the region and put the economic, political, and social development of Asia Pacific into context.