

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens tours the Far East

Fifty-two dancers and staff members from Les Grands Ballets Canadiens embarked recently on a 9 1/2-week tour that will include 40 performances in 20 cities of the Far East. They are scheduled to perform in China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

As part of its repertoire, the company will perform the first work ever created by a Chinese choreographer for a western ballet company — *The Red Ribbon Dance* — and will conduct workshops at ballet studios in the countries they visit.

Audiences will also see ballets by some of the most renowned choreographers of the 20th Century including works by the company's own Brian Macdonald and James Kudelka.

Mr. Kudelka, the troupe's principal dancer and up-and-coming choreographer, created a new ballet to a musical composition written by King Bhumiphol of Thailand, a keen saxophonist who has played with Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington. The company will perform 12 combinations of 14 works, with some programs purely classical in nature and others with a more contemporary content.

The Far East tour has been two years in preparation. The company will take with them 4 000 tonnes of costumes, scenery, props and equipment. In addition to the costumes and scenery, they will be transporting 1 000 pairs of shoes for its 39 dancers, 150 rolls



A scene from Findings, a ballet choreographed by Brian Macdonald.

of adhesive tape for its dance floor, 10 kilograms of resin, approximately 100 spools of thread for costume repairs, a washing machine and dryer, pharmaceuticals such as cold remedies, insect repellents, bandages and anti-inflammatories, sun-tan creams, as well as office supplies.

The company will be accompanied by a two-man film crew from the National Film Board which will shoot a 90-minute documentary capturing performances and life on the road. The film is scheduled for broadcast in March 1985 on the CBC French and English networks.

Album from hit musical

Twenty years after it premièred at the Charlottetown Festival, *Anne of Green Gables*, Canada's biggest hit musical, finally has a Canadian-cast album.

It was unveiled recently in Toronto where the album was recorded and features the performers who appeared in the show over the years, rather than the cast of any single season.

To mark the release of both the album and the cassette from Toronto's Ready Records, the festival imported mussels, courtesy of Prince Edward Island's Department of Fisheries.

"This is a red-letter day for the Canadian recording industry," boasted Bill Hancox, executive director of Charlottetown's Confederation Arts Centre where *Anne* celebrates its 20th anniversary this summer. "Not only is this the first Canadian cast album, but it's one of the first albums of any big Canadian musical."

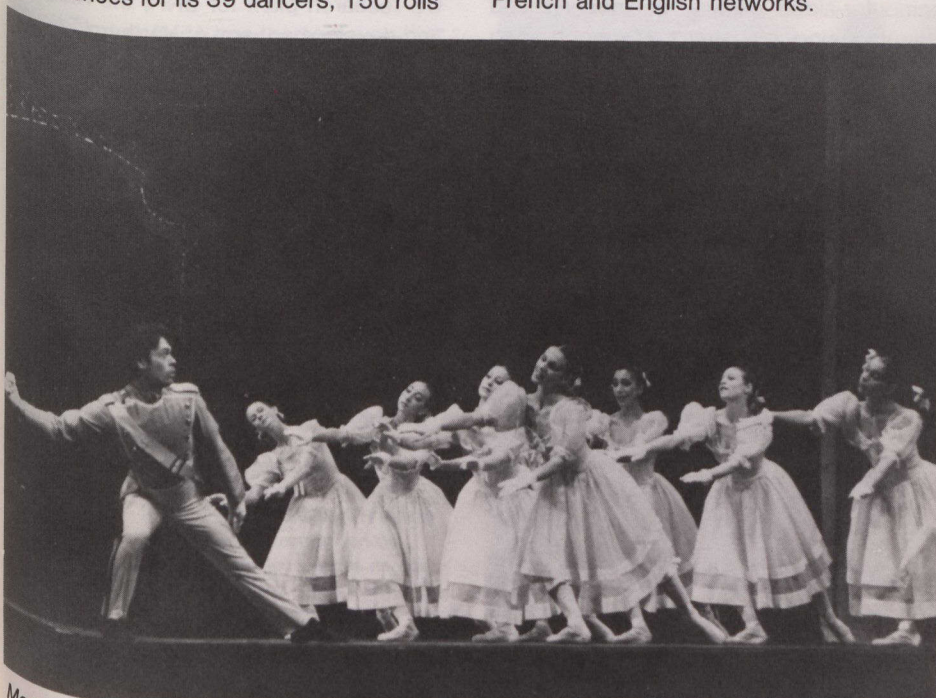
The only previous album of *Anne* has been the one from the London West End version staged in 1969. It has been a steady seller in Canada, most particularly at the festival itself.

Three of *Anne's* original cast members are featured in the new album: Peter Mews as Matthew Cuthbert, Liane Marshall as Miss Stacey, the school teacher, and Cleone Duncan.

Arts briefs

Astral Bellevue Pathé, one of Canada's major communications companies, and Le Groupe Hachette of France have agreed to form a company to finance and distribute films for television and theatres. The objective of the company, which will have offices in Montreal and Paris, will be to produce films for international distribution. Astral president Harold Greenberg said in a statement that the new company "will stimulate Canadian film production since the films will be directed at the international market".

The first Joint National Conference of the Association of Canadian Orchestras and the American Symphony Orchestra League, will be held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, June 5-9, 1984. The Conference will include prominent speakers and national award presentations; concert performances by three Canadian orchestras; and general interest sessions on topics such as arts education, new technology, artistic policy, fundraising, and marketing.



Members of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens perform Bal des Cadets.