

News of the arts

Love affair with landscape

Over the past 50 years, many artists have been drawn to the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal, Quebec, by the ruggedness of the landscape. In an exhibition organized and circulated by the Art Gallery of Ontario, attention has been devoted to the work of 15 Canadian artists who chose, for personal reasons, at one time or another, to live and work in this region.

The Laurentians: Painters in a Landscape appears at the Gallery from November 25 to December 31, after which it will travel to Windsor and Kingston, Ontario, before finishing its year-long tour in April, at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris, France. In the exhibition are 60 paintings, drawings, sketches and prints loaned by public museums, private galleries, artists and their families and individual lenders from many parts of Canada. The exhibition is the first to concentrate entirely on this area north of Montreal and to bring together the works of painters who have worked there at different times.

Some of the artists represented are: André Biéler, Sam Borenstein, Fritz Brandtner, Marc-Aurèle Fortin, Patrick Landsley, John Lyman, Louis Muhlstock, Roland Pichet, Robert W. Pilot, Goodridge



Fritz Brandtner's *Sixteen Islands Lake (No. 1)*, 1942

Roberts, Anne D. Savage, Jacques de Tonnancour, Maurice Cullen and Jean-Paul Riopelle.

Each artist's statement is highly personal, ranging from the gentle social realism of Biéler's watercolour, *Election Day, Ste. Adèle* (1918), to Fortin's vivid,

"decorative" farm scene in *Vue de Lesage, Laurentides* (oil on canvas, circa 1938); or from Muhlstock's love of the human figure shown in his sepia sketch, *Laurentian Boulders*, 1973, to Landsley's cool abstraction in *Winter Light* (1973, oil and acrylic on canvas).

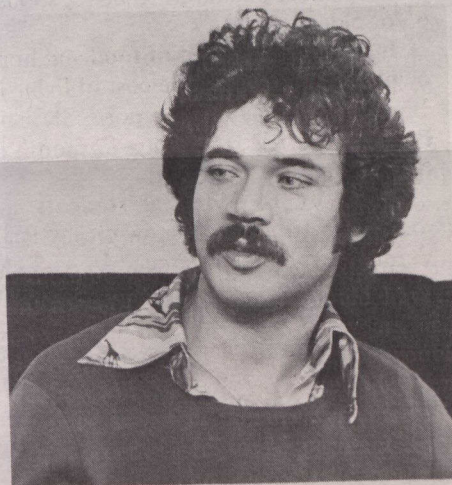
Five Canadian plays at Stratford

Two Vancouver playwrights, Tom Cone and Sheldon Rosen, will have their work introduced to Stratford Festival audiences at the Third Stage in 1978.

Stargazing, by Tom Cone, commissioned by the festival, will have its *première* at Stratford. Sheldon Rosen's *Ned and Jack* is at present playing in Vancouver in a New Play Centre production.

Stargazing is a contemporary comedy about four people, two brothers and their wives. Cone has had other works produced in Toronto and New York as well as in Vancouver. His play *Herringbone* was seen in New York, on CBC television and at the Montreal Olympics. Other plays by the same author include *Beautiful Tigers* and *Cubistique*.

Ned and Jack is about a friendship between two celebrated Americans who were prominent in New York theatre in the early part of the century — actor John Barrymore and producer/playwright



Sheldon Rosen

Edward Sheldon. Stricken with crippling arthritis at the height of his career while he was still a young man, Edward Sheldon was confined to his bed for the rest of his life. Despite his immobility, he remained friend and mentor to the most important theatrical figures of the age.

Ned and Jack takes place one night before he has become totally crippled but at a time when he knows medical science can do nothing to arrest or cure the disease. It is a personal moment in the lives of two public figures who happened also to be fast friends, and it is recounted with warmth and much humour.

Playwright-in-residence at the National Arts Centre last year, Sheldon Rosen has written for the CBC and has had his plays performed at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto and in Vancouver. His other plays include *The Box*, *Myer's Room* and *The Grand Hysterical*.

In all, five Canadian plays are planned for the 1978 season at Stratford. A new version of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* by John Murrell, will appear at the Avon Theatre. His version of *Medea*, first performed in the 1975 Workshop at Stratford, will be presented at the Third Stage. A second play commissioned by the festival, *Devotion*, will have its world *première* at the Avon Theatre.