

News of the arts

Canadian film awards

Lies My Father Told Me, directed by Jan Kadar and produced by Harry Gulkin, was chosen as the best feature film of the year at the 1976 Canadian Film Awards held in Toronto on October 25. *Lies* also won three other awards: Marilyn Lightstone for best actress of the year, Ted Allen for the best screen play, and the film also won the "crass materialism" prize as the most commercially successful Canadian film from September 1975 to August 1976.

Award winners are presented with an "Etrog", named after the sculptor who designed them.

The best actor prize went to André Melancon for his performance in *Partis Pour La Gloire*, and best actress was Tedde Moore for her role in Don Shebib's *Second Wind*. Best supporting actor was Frank Moore in Joyce Weiland's film *The Far Shore*, which also won the award for cinematography by Richard Leiterman. The best director was Harvey Hart for the film *Goldenrod*.

The John Grierson award, in honour of the founder of the National Film Board, was given to Tom Daley for 36 years and 600 films produced for the NFB. The winning documentary was *Volcano, An Inquiry into the Life and Death of Malcolm Lowry*. Best animated film award went to Caroline Leaf for *The Street*, the best television drama to *For Gentlemen Only* and the best theatrical short to *Cooperage*.

National Ballet celebrates twenty-fifth anniversary

In celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, the National Ballet of Canada will be host at a dance conference in Toronto, November 15 and 16. Visitors expected from Europe, Britain, the U.S. and Canada include Dame Ninette de Valois, founder of the Royal Ballet; Robert Joffrey, artistic director of the City Centre Joffrey Ballet; Rudi van Dantzig of the Dutch National Ballet; Peter Brinson of the Gulbenkian Foundation, Clive Barnes, dance and drama critic for *The New York Times*, and John Percival of the *London Times*, among others. Canadians in-



Karen Kain

involved in the conference include Alexander Grant, artistic director of the National Ballet, Arnold Spore of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Charles Lussier, director of the Canada Council.

The panel discussions will follow the theme "Ballet - classical and contemporary - the next 25 years", and participants will be treated to a series of dance films produced by Canadian Norman Campbell.

The conference takes place at the opening of the National's Toronto season. John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* will open on November 12 in a gala performance commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the night when the company first opened in 1951. Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn will dance the title roles, with a special appearance by Celia Franca, founder of the company, in the role of Lady Capulet. The premiere of Frederick Ashton's *la Fille mal gardée* takes place on November 17.

Forrester returns to scene of first U.S. triumph

When Canadian opera singer Maureen Forrester steps onto the stage of New York's Town Hall on November 12, it will be very much like a return home. Her appearance in that auditorium will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the day she gave her first recital in New York - her *début* in the United States - which marked the phenomenal rise to fame of this internationally-

acclaimed contralto.

And, the contralto began as a soprano. She was singing as a teenager in a Montreal choir when she was heard by Bernard Diamant, a prominent Dutch baritone living in that city. "You have a lovely voice my dear," he said, "but you don't know how to sing."

He recognized, however, the contralto quality of her voice and, under his training, she soon found her natural voice placement. Then Maureen Forrester began in earnest to build a concert repertoire.

Her formal recital *début* was in Montreal in 1953, at the age of 23. This led to orchestral engagements under people such as Sir Ernest MacMillan, Otto Klemperer and Josef Krips. She went on to tours of Canada. In 1956 she took the United States by storm, and hasn't looked back.

International tours

She has sung throughout the world with every leading conductor and orchestra. Pablo Casals frequently invited her to appear at his famous Puerto Rico Festival. She was with the New York City Opera in 1966-67, in Handel's *Julius Caesar*, then in autumn of 1967 she made her San Francisco Opera *début* as Cieca in *La Gioconda*. In 1975 she made her Metropolitan Opera *début* as Erda in Wagner's *Das Rheingold* and *Seigfried*.

She has toured abroad many times, performing in 1970 with the Montreal



Maureen Forrester