

News of the arts

Graeme Gibson awarded fellowship

Graeme Gibson, a native of London, Ontario, is the first Canadian recipient of the Scotland-Canada Writers-in-Residence Exchange Fellowship under an exchange program established between the Canada Council and the Scottish Arts Council last year.

As writer-in-residence at the University of Edinburgh, Mr. Gibson will be free to devote himself principally to his work, but will also travel, give lectures and readings, make himself available to students for consultation and participate in seminars and literary meetings. The fellowship is worth £5,000, plus accommodation and return travel fares for Mr. Gibson and his immediate dependants. Selection of the recipient was made by an independent jury appointed by the Canada Council.

Gibson is the author of two novels, *Five Legs* (1969) and *Communion* (1971); a collection of interviews, *Eleven Canadian Novelists* (1973); and a screenplay, with Peter Pearson, based on Sinclair Ross' novel *As for Me and My House*.

Vancouver orchestra tours U.S.

What may well be the most extensive tour of the U.S. undertaken by a major Canadian symphony orchestra will take place from April 7 to April 17, when the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra visits seven major centres in the western states. Kazuyoshi Akiyama, resident conductor and music director, will conduct and Janina Fialkowska, Canadian pianist, will appear as guest soloist.

The orchestra will appear in Logan, Utah; Medford and Portland in Oregon; Las Vegas; Phoenix; and Long Beach, California. The tour, which begins with a concert in Vancouver on April 4, is sponsored by the Department of External Affairs as part of its program of cultural relations. Canadian consulates in a number of U.S. cities will assist the orchestra.

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra has been under the direction of Kazuyoshi Akiyama since 1972. Akiyama is also permanent conductor of the Tokyo Symphony, principal conductor of the Osaka Philharmonic, principal guest conductor of the New Japan Philharmonic and music director of the American Sym-

phony Orchestra.

The symphony, officially formed in 1919, has enjoyed rapid growth under the direction of Akiyama and now plays to more than 40,000 subscribers — one of the largest orchestral subscription audiences in the world. The orchestra recently moved into the newly renovated Orpheum, now Canada's largest concert hall. It made its first international tour in 1974, performing in six major cities in Japan. In 1975, it became the first major orchestra to tour Canada.

Canadian pianist Janina Fialkowska, who will accompany the orchestra on tour, has been a prize-winner at the First International Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition in Israel and the 1971 Montreal International Piano Competition.

NFB wins Hollywood honour

The Los Angeles Film Teachers Association has presented the National Film Board with its Jean Renoir Humanities Award.

Alice Ladine, president of the association, said the group honoured the NFB because "its films have provided us an impetus towards the spiritual and have uplifted the hearts of those who have seen them".

The preamble to the scroll accompanying the award states that it is "given to commemorate the humanistic films of Jean Renoir, a spokesman for the human heart", who "has declared that any work of art that leads man to take a small comfort in the spiritual is a work worthy of our attention".

"The National Film Board productions certainly fall within this definition and are widely used and appreciated by film teachers throughout the United States," Ladine declared.

Arts brief

The National Arts Centre's French Theatre production, *Woyzeck*, touring France and Belgium under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, has been received with praise by audiences and critics. One critic called it "an emotional feast for the audience, a production of originality, coherence and charm, suffused with the imagination of every member of the company".



Canadian classical guitarist Liona Boyd, who performed recently in several cities in Brazil under the sponsorship of the Department of External Affairs and BRASCAN, was acclaimed by critics and applauded enthusiastically by audiences. In Rio de Janeiro, Miss Boyd (right) honoured the memory of well-known Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos by playing and dedicating one of his works to his widow, Mrs. Aminda Villa-Lobos, who appears in the above photo with the Canadian Consul in Rio de Janeiro, Marc C. Lemieux.