

News of the arts

National Ballet School welcomes old pupils on its birthday

To celebrate its twentieth anniversary the National Ballet School, which has produced such stars as Veronica Tennant, James Kudelka, Frank Augustyn, Karen Kain, Nadia Potts and Vanessa Harwood, will host a conference involving the top dance personalities of the world. Representing Canada are David Moroni, Arnold Spohr and Bonnie Wyckoff of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet; Anna Wyman of Vancouver's Anna Wyman Dance Theatre; David Earle of the Toronto Dance Theatre; Lawrence Gradus and Jacqueline Lemieux of Entre Six. From the United States, Agnes de Mille will attend, as will Robert Joffrey. From Europe Dame Margot Fonteyn will lead a distinguished contingent which will include Erik Bruhn of the Royal Danish Ballet; Rudi Van Dantzig of the Dutch National Ballet; Beryl Grey of the London Festival Ballet and John Neumeier of the Stuttgart Ballet.

On February 21 the National Ballet School will perform with its graduates from the National Ballet company. The celebration, which has been funded by a variety of government organizations, has received a \$5,000-grant from Simpson-Sears Limited.

Children honoured by artists

The Canada Council recently announced a major touring project to celebrate the International Year of the Child. *The Greatest Little Travelling Supershow for Young People* includes 18 professional theatre, dance and music companies, representing artists from almost every province, who will travel across the country, including the Yukon and Northwest Territories, from May 1 to July 24. "Supershow", to be produced and co-ordinated by the Canada Council with the co-operation of provincial and municipal governments and local sponsors, will also feature readings by major Canadian authors, as well as displays of children's books.

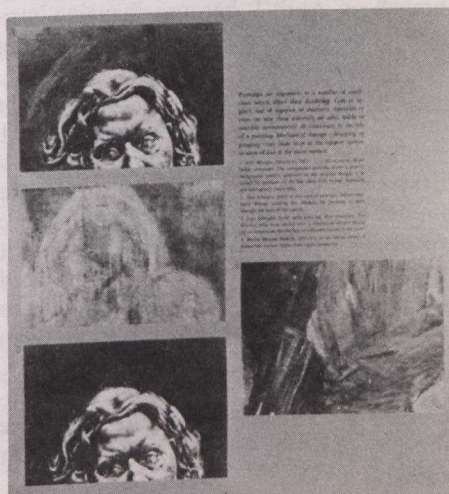
Artists selected for the tour represent all the performing arts. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet will perform, as will the internationally acclaimed Canadian Brass and the award-winning Anna Wyman Dance Theatre. British Columbia's Green Thumb

Players and Kaleidoscope will offer drama especially designed for children. Sharon, Lois and Bram, whose album for children, *One Elephant, Deux Elephants*, has brought them fame, will join the travelling troupe.

The Greatest Little Travelling Supershow for Young People will coincide with and augment other festivals and children's events, such as the Ontario Science Centre's travelling *Science Circus*, special National Film Board presentations, Vancouver's Heritage Festival, Toronto's Children's Festival at the Young People's Theatre Arts Festival International in Wolfville, Nova Scotia), the Charlottetown Festival and the Summer Festival in St. John's, Newfoundland. The additional participation of local artists in centres across the country will allow Canadians from Whitehorse to St. John's to see approximately 100 artists giving over 500 performances in celebration of the International Year of the Child.

Art restoration and forgery

Is that an authentic work of art? Have alterations disturbed the artist's original intent? Is forgery exposed by modern science and technology? **KNOW WHAT YOU SEE: The Examination and Treatment of Paintings** is a documentary exhibition on the examination and treatment of paintings, co-ordinated at the National Gallery of Canada. The exhibition, which opened January 5, circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Travelling Exhibition Service, is on view at the National



Panel discusses conditions affecting the appearance of painting.

Gallery until March.

The art conservator's techniques are explained on 24 panels dealing with, for example: the structure of paintings; paint cracks: genuine and false; study by infrared photography; originals vs. forgery; genuine and pastiche; treatment procedures, and changes by the artists.

The results of modern scientific conservation and restoration on display include the removal of overpaint to reveal a hidden figure and the alteration of a Degas pastel to make it more saleable. A light box shows by means of four lamps the distinctive effect on colour of different light-producing sources. The phenomena revealed by various types of examination is also on paintings from the National Gallery's European collection.

Arts briefs

1832, one episode from *The Newcomers*, Imperial Oil Limited's group of films to celebrate the company's centennial last year, has won five Canadian Film and Television Association awards: best film, best television special, best direction, best script and best cinematography.

Two new exhibitions — *Blake Illustrations for the Book of Job and Dante's Divine Comedy* and *Graphics Inspired by Literary Works or Historic Events* — are being presented by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts until February 25. Blake's engravings were acquired in 1965 through a donation from Montreal businessman David Y. Hodgson. The second exhibition includes prints by Chagall, Cecil Buller, Dali, Théodore Chassériau, Claire Van Vliet, Richard Upton and Cuevas.

Czechoslovakian actor Jan Triska will appear in this year's Stratford Festival production of *Richard II*, in the role of Henry Bolingbroke.

Last year, le Theatre français of the National Arts Centre gave 442 performances and covered 48,000 kilometres, visiting 81 cities, including two in Belgium and 12 in France.

A new Canadian play, *John A. ... Himself!*, opened January 31 at Theatre London in London, Ontario, starring the theatre's artistic director and long-time Stratford Festival actor, William Hutt. The play, commissioned specially for Theatre London, is written by Timothy Findley, recent recipient of the Governor-General's Award for his novel, *The Wars*.