

News of the arts

Peking Opera Theatre of China to tour Canada



Scene from *The Monkey King Creates Havoc in Heaven* showing the bright and unusual costumes of the company.

The Peking Opera Theatre of China, will tour Canada this autumn, the Touring Office of the Canada Council and the Department of External Affairs have announced. The Touring Office is co-ordinating the tour under the terms of the official cultural exchange program between Canada and the People's Republic of China.

The 100-member troupe will perform in: Toronto, O'Keefe Centre, October 9-13; Montreal, Place des Arts, October 17-20; Ottawa, National Arts Centre, October 24-27; Hamilton, Hamilton Place, October 30-31; Regina, Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, November 3 and 4; Edmonton, Jubilee Auditorium, November 5 and 6; Vancouver, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, November 8-11; and Victoria, Royal Theatre, November 13.

Combining acrobatics and antics, dance and drama, music and mime, songs and sword fights, the versatile performers, in traditional costumes, will present their artistry in two programs: *The Monkey King Creates Havoc in Heaven* — based on the novel *A Pilgrimage to the West* — describes the Monkey King's revenge on the Kingdom of Heaven which attempts to conquer his own kingdom. Wily, crafty and employing martial arts, the Monkey King and his monkeys are finally victorious.

The company's unique stature in the world of the performing arts is further

illustrated in excerpts from famous works, based on folklore and myth, including: *The Inn of the Three-Cornered Intersection*, *The Jade Bracelet*, *The Forest of the Wild Boars*, *The King Bids Farewell to his Mistress*, *Autumn River* and *The Water Flows over the Golden Hill*.

The troupe's members are graduates of China's theatre schools and have toured Asia, Africa, Australia, the United States and Europe. The Peking Opera Theatre of China was last seen in Canada in 1960.



The theatre uses acrobatics, dance, mime and sword fights in its performances.

Live opera from Salzburg on radio

A complicated technical hook-up between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the National Public Radio network in the U.S., allowed opera-lovers to hear a live performance of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* direct from the stage of the 1979 Salzburg Festival. The program was broadcast over the CBC stereo radio network on August 19.

Headlining the cast was bass Marti Talvela as Sarastro, soprano Edita Gruberova as Queen of the Night and soprano Lleana Cotrubas as Pamina. Tenor Eric Tappy was Tamino and soprano Elisabeth Kales was Papagena. Christian Boesch was the comic bird-catcher Papageno.

James Levine, American music director of the Metropolitan Opera, conducted the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera Chorus.

CBC spokesman Linda Litwack said National Public Radio provided most of the technical organization for the broadcast. She said the radio signal was relayed first from Frankfurt, West Germany to Connecticut by satellite. From there it travelled to Boston, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C., where it was sent across the U.S. by the Public Broadcasting System's Westar satellite.

Teenagers learn of their culture

A number of North American teenagers of Ukrainian descent spent a month this summer learning about their cultural roots.

The 23 youngsters took part in a cultural immersion program that ranged from Ukrainian language and literature to learning how to play the *bandura*, a Ukrainian stringed instrument that sounds like a cross between a lute and a harp.

Rosemarie Todaschuk, 16, of Winnipeg, said the immersion program, at St. Andrew's College on the University of Manitoba campus in Winnipeg, was not like a regular school because there was no pressure — except when it was time for the final language examinations.

In addition to language classes, the students also learned by visiting Ukrainian museums in Winnipeg and practising traditional Ukrainian dances.