

Stratford season opens June 10

The full team of directors, designers and composers is not in place and ready to create theatrical excitement at the Stratford Festival in 1984. That is part of additional casting news announced recently by Artistic Director John Hirsch.

The Festival Theatre

season opens June 10 with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. William Shakespeare's delightful celebration of romance and magic. John Hirsch will direct with design by Desmond Heeley, lighting by Michael J. Whitfield and music by Harry Somers.

Beethoven concerts being recorded

CBC Radio Music, in cooperation with CBC Enterprises, is recording all five Beethoven piano concertos with the Toronto Symphony, Maestro Andrew Davis and acclaimed Beethoven interpreter, pianist Anto Kuerti, as part of its connoisseur SM 500 label.

The works will be issued as a box set in October together with the Fantasy for piano, orchestra and chorus, involving the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. Digital recording, by producer Anton Kwiatkowski and engineer Ed Marshall, will take place between this February and June.

It has been more than a decade since Anton Kuerti began to make his mark as Canada's finest interpreter of Beethoven's piano music. He has performed all 32 Beethoven sonatas in several Canadian cities as well as in New York, always to outstanding critical acclaim. His recordings of the complete sonatas were released on Aquitaine in Canada and on CBS/Odyssey in the U.S. to rave reviews.

"There is no other Beethoven cycle with a com-

'Police Academy' Opens March 23

"Police Academy," a new contemporary action-comedy film, starring Steve Guttenberg, Kim Cattrall, Bubba Smith and George Gaynes, will open across Canada on Friday, March 23.

The Paul Maslansky Production chronicles the zany actions of an odd-lot of misfits who converge as recruits at a major American city's police academy, when the institute is ordered to switch to an open enrollment policy.

parable inner tension," exclaimed Germany's leading paper, *Die Welt*. *Byr American Record Guide* found it "reaches sublime heights".

Kuerti has also performed the five Beethoven concerto in Toronto, Victoria, Singapore and Honolulu, and several of the concerto with the Toronto Symphony since his arrival in Canada in the early 1960s.

Although Toronto Symphony Music Director Andrew Davis has only one other Beethoven recording to his credit -- four overtures with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, for Classics for Pleasure -- he was an integral part of the Toronto Symphony's 1977 Beethoven Festival. He conducted two of its six concerts, and ended the festival with a critically acclaimed performance of the Ninth Symphony. Over the years, he has performed all the symphonies either in Toronto or in guest appearances with the world's leading orchestras.

Highly praised in Canada and abroad for both performances and sound quality, the CBC's SM 5000 series offers music lovers a first-class Canadian alternative in orchestral repertoire. Encouraged by the series' artistic and commercial success, the CBC is stepping up its recording activity in time to celebrate the 300th anniversaries of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti. A recording of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra and all-star cast of Canadian soloists will be released near the end of 1984. This will be the first Brandenburg set to be recorded in Canada.

The Second Festival Theatre production, opening June 12, is *Romeo and Juliet* directed by Peter Dews with Steven Schipper serving as associate director. Artistic Director John Hirsch expressed great pleasure in announcing Mr. Schipper's status as associate director.

"This is part of the vital training aspect of our overall mandate at the Festival," he said. "Steven has been with us as an assistant for the past two seasons and *Romeo and Juliet* represents the next step in his development as a director ready to handle the unique demands of the Festival Theatre stage."

Designer for the production is David Walker with lighting by Harry Frehner and Louise Guinand and music by Louis Applebaum.

The remount of the Festival's 1983 Young Company production of *Love's Labour's Lost*, opening June 13, will be the third offering presented on the Festival stage. Michael Langham returns to direct with design by John Pennoyer, lighting by Steven Hawkins and music by Stanley Silverman.

The fourth production of the Festival Theatre season, opening July 13, will be a remount of John Hirsch's sterling 1983 production of *Tartuffe* starring Brain Bedford in the title role, Douglas Campbell as Orgon and Pat Galloway as Dorine. Domini Blythe joins them as Elmire, Orgon's

wife, together with Nicholas Pennell as Cleante.

Others in the cast include Shaune Austin-Olsen, Andrew Gillies, Amelia Hall, Seana McKenna, William Needles and Michael Shepherd.

The final production on the Festival stage, opening August 19, is *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Mark Lamos with design by Christina Poddubiuk lighting by Michael J. Whitfield and music by Gary Kulesha.

At the Avon Theatre, the celebration of Gilbert and Sullivan begins June 11 with the opening of *Iolanthe*, followed by the June 14 opening of the remount of the 1983 production of *The Gondoliers* and the July 12 return of the smash hit production of *The Mikado*.

Brian MacDonald is director and choreographer for all three productions with design for *Iolanthe* by Susan Benson and musical direction for all three by Berthold Carriere.

Susan Benson designed costumes for both *The Gondoliers* and *The Mikado* with set design by Susan Benson and Douglas McLean.

Internationally renowned contralto Maureen Forrester stars as the Queen of the Fairies in the *Iolanthe* with Katharina Megli in the title role. Ms. Megli also assumes the role of Casilda

in *The Gondoliers*. Other featured performers in *Iolanthe* include Marie Baron, Stephen Beamish, Douglas Chamberlain, Eric

Donkin, Allison Grant, Avo Kittask, Paul Massel, Katharina Megli, Karen Skidmore, Jean Stilwell and Karen Wood.

In September, dramas move into the Avon Theatre beginning September 7th with Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Artistic Director John Hirsch directs with set design by Ralph Funicello, costume design by Debra Hanson and lighting by Michael J. Whitfield.

The second Avon drama, opening September 23, will be *Separate Tables*, written by Terence Rattigan and directed by internationally regarded British director David William. Mr. William's many credits include direction of the Stratford Festival's 1967 production of *King Lear* and *Othello*.

Brian H. Jackson will design sets and costumes with lighting by Harry Frehner.

Featured performers include Maggie Askey, Edward Atienza, Domini Blythe, Ann Casson, Patricia Collins, Andrew Gillies, Amelia Hall and John Neville.

At the Third Stage, June 15 marks the opening of Samuel Beckett's modern classic *Waiting For Godot* directed by Joseph Chaikin, one of the most prominent figures in contemporary American theatre. Edward Atienza joins Brian Bedford in the co-starring roles of Estragon and Vladimir.

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