

## Young people's theatre on tour in Pacific Rim

Green Thumb Theatre for Young People from Vancouver, British Columbia is currently on tour in the Pacific Rim presenting more than 100 performances of its most successful shows, *New Canadian Kid* and *One Thousand Cranes*. The tour began at the Hong Kong Arts Centre on April 16 and will conclude on August 9 in Auckland, New Zealand after performances in other New Zealand cities and in Singapore and Australia.

The tour is being sponsored by the federal government through the Department of External Affairs and the British Columbia government through the B.C. Cultural Fund and Lottery Revenues.

Green Thumb's performances in Hong Kong were also assisted by Reliance Photographic Reproduction, who have offices in Hong Kong and Victoria, B.C., and the Hong Kong office of CP Air.

### Concerns of youth

Green Thumb Theatre addresses topical issues of concern to young people and their families, and the two shows on the tour in the Pacific Rim are examples of the type of work done by the theatre company.

*New Canadian Kid*, written by Green Thumb artistic director Dennis Foon, is the story of a young immigrant, Nick, and the



David Cooper

Wendy Noel and Brian Linds are appearing in Dennis Foon's *New Canadian Kid* on tour in countries of the Pacific Rim.

struggles he faces adjusting to a new country, language and lifestyle. Nick's situation is made very immediate in a simple but powerful manner — Nick and his mother speak English, while the other characters

in the play speak a gibberish that was created for the show.

*New Canadian Kid* has toured throughout Canada, the United States, Britain and other European countries, and has been produced by companies in other parts of the world.

*One Thousand Cranes* has been praised by educators, critics and children for its sensitive treatment of a difficult subject — the threat of nuclear war, and its effect on children today. The play's title refers to the bird that has become a symbol for the survivors, a symbol of peace, hope and happiness.

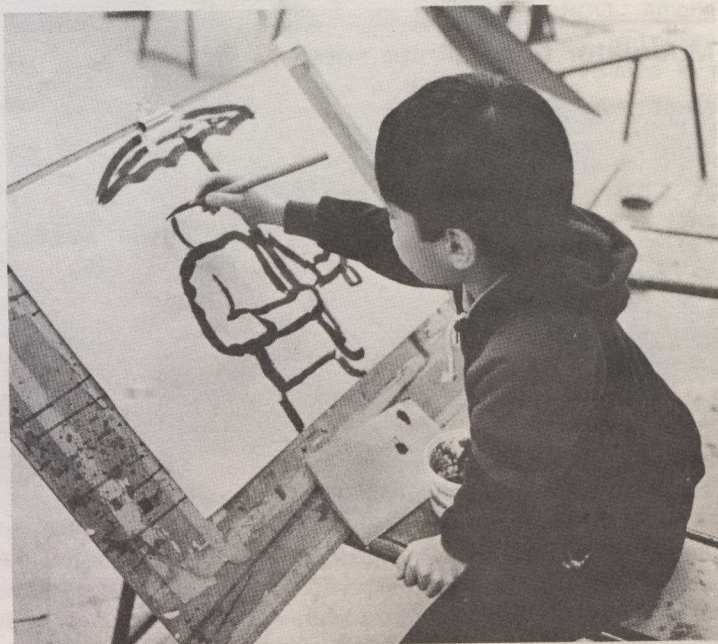
### Truth and fiction

The stories of two children are interwoven in the play: the true story of Sadako Sasaki, who was a victim of leukemia due to exposure at Hiroshima, and a fictional account of a young Canadian boy who is frightened by the possibility of nuclear war.

*One Thousand Cranes* has also been performed widely and in 1984 won the Chalmers Award for Best Canadian Children's Play, as well as the Jessie Richardson Award for Best Children's production.

*One Thousand Cranes* and *New Canadian Kid* were designed by Marti Wright and are being directed by Dennis Foon. Cast members include Barbara Duncan, Daphne Goldrick, Brian Linds, Wendy Noel and Brian Torpe.

## Artistic expression focused through the eyes of a child



A young aspiring artist (right photo) at the Winnipeg Art Gallery is intent on his portrayal of the "Model with Umbrella". The Winnipeg gallery is one of the many Canadian galleries that organizes art courses on weekends and during holidays to enable children to find expression through paint, paper, clay and wood. Oblivious to chatter and clatter around them, the children are usually found immersed in their work, their attention riveted on the immediate project.