

# News of the arts

## Museums and galleries spend more

Canada's public art galleries and museums spent 57 per cent more on exhibitions in 1979 than in 1978, according to the latest statistics released by the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada (CBAC).

In its fourth annual survey of major visual arts organizations, the CBAC examined 53 public and university-affiliated art galleries and museums, each of whose total operating revenue exceeds \$40,000.

About 85 per cent of the total operating revenues of public art galleries and museums came from government grants. Private donations were lower than anticipated for operating. However, of the \$17 million raised for capital purposes last year, \$10.5 million came from the private sector.

## King Tut exhibit

Public art galleries budgeted \$3.3 million for exhibitions in 1979. Attendance increased at the galleries by 1.1 million people, with the Art Gallery of Ontario's *Treasures of Tutankhamun* probably accounting for 700,000 of that.

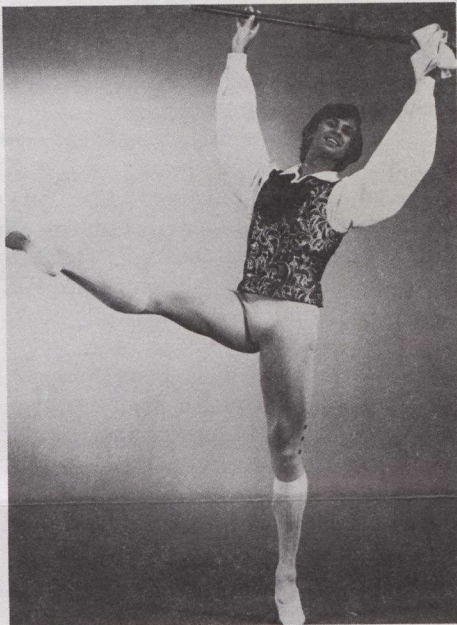
Museums increased their total operating revenues by \$6.7 million over last year, for a total of \$38.2 million. Overall attendance at museum exhibitions was put at 5.6 million people, a drop from 6.7 million in 1978.

## Augustyn joins Berlin company

Frank Augustyn, first prize winner in Moscow and leading ballet artist with the National Ballet of Canada, recently announced that he has signed with the Berlin Oper Ballet for 1980-81.

Born in Hamilton, Mr. Augustyn entered the National Ballet School when he was 12 and joined the company in 1970. In 1972 he rose to international prominence and to the position of principal when Rudolf Nureyev selected him to dance the *Virtuoso Blue Bird pas de deux* in his new version of *The Sleeping Beauty* on the National Ballet's North American tour.

Gert Reinholm, Artistic Director of the Berlin Oper Ballet said he is "delighted with the addition of Frank as one of the stars of his company. He will have *carte blanche* with regard to repertoire and we look forward to a most artistically in-



Frank Augustyn

spired and successful relationship".

Mr. Augustyn will appear with the National Ballet and as guest artist with symphony orchestras during the 1980-81 season for a limited number of performances.

## Theatre chain to produce films

Canada's largest movie exhibitor, Famous Players Limited of Toronto, has established a new company, Famous Players Film Corporation to develop, finance and produce feature films.

"There is already a work in progress, as yet untitled, which is being casted," Donald Watts, advertising director, said. "It is still virtually a company without walls. There are several other projects in the discussion stages, and several scripts being considered." He said the new company, based in Toronto, currently has a staff of four.

"Canadian films today are made mostly by independent producers. We feel the capital, expertise and facilities of Famous Players will give us a sounder base for the production of films." Mr. Watts said most of the company's films will be made to meet the Canadian production point system established by the Canadian Film Development Corporation.

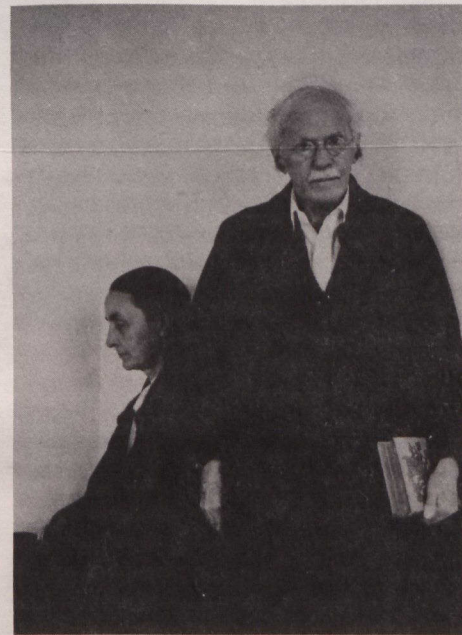
Independent investors will be able to secure interests in the company's more commercial productions, he said, but probably not in those projects which "cater to a more selective audience".

## Photography collection

Highlights of gifts to the photography collection of the National Gallery of Canada during the last ten years are on exhibition at the gallery until November 30.

The 60 works in the exhibition include photographs from the first major donation to the collection in 1968 by collector Dorothy Eidlitz. Also exhibited are photographs from Alexander Gardner's *Sketch Book of the Civil War* (1886), Minor White's *Song Without Words* (1948) and some hitherto unknown work by Edward Weston given by the Montreal collector Phyllis Lambert. Selections from the collection by west coast documentary photographer, Darius Kinsey, were given by A.A. Shipton of Penticton, British Columbia.

The National Gallery of Canada's photography collection has been enhanced by the varied interests of collectors: Ottawa photographer Robert Bourdeau strengthened the gallery's collection by giving an important portfolio by the contemporary American photographer Paul Caponigro; a historian of photography, Ralph Greenhill of Toronto, has presented nineteenth-century Canadian and American photographs and the Ottawa Camera Club has given a substantial collection of photographs by Frederick George Ashton who worked locally.



Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keefe, Spring '44, photograph by Arnold Newman, donated by Dorothy Eidlitz, St. Andrews, New Brunswick.