

Entertainment and culture: an unequalled extravaganza

Canada Pavilion is presenting what is described as the country's largest cultural festival ever. Some 200 productions involving about 2 000 artists are being given in 9 000 separate performances.

Many of the performers, like contralto Maureen Forrester and pianist-composer André Gagnon, are very well known, while others, like Saskatchewan country and western singer Glorianne Carrière and Montreal dancer-choreographer Michel Lemieux, are making their names.

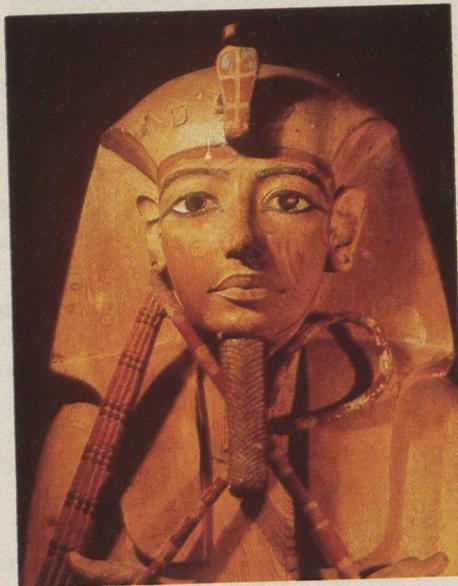
Inside Canada Pavilion, music ensembles, modern dance and contemporary theatre are featured in the Amiga Studio Theatre, while musical ensembles perform everything from baroque fugues to Dixieland jazz at the Inner Stage. In the evening, the informal theatre is a comedy cabaret.

Outside the pavilion at the amphitheatre, the Children's Festival and a Canadian heritage festival are staged. Story-tellers perform regularly as well in a special program, "Our Feet on the Ground", designed to make Canadian history come to life.

Along the promenades bordering the Canadian pavilion, visitors are entertained by jugglers, musicians, dancers, poets and clowns who are part of *Tabootenay*, a Canadian version of a travelling carnival that began in B.C.'s Slocan Valley and whose trademark is spontaneous, spirited entertainment.

The major players in *Tabootenay* are the Promenauts, symbolizing EXPO 86's theme of transportation and communications in fanciful attire. They greet visitors daily in their own special ways of motion.

The art works inside the Canadian pavilion are integrated in the design to help create



Ramses II and his Time, an exhibition of treasures from the Egyptian pharaoh's tomb is housed in the Great Hall.

an "image of Canada, 1986". More than 20 original art works by notable Canadian artists have been unveiled.

Folk festival

On the main site, a new region of Canada is visited every week in the first comprehensive folklife festival to explore folk traditions in the country. Native and settler cultures are highlighted with programs, demonstrations of crafts, food and other activities. During Newfoundland days, for example, there are fiddlers and step-dancers, birch broom-makers and cooks preparing special provincial dishes like "flipper pie".

The colour and rhythm of cultures from

six continents are on display. From morning till night, a wide variety of performances from classics to contemporary animates the exposition in theatres, bandshells, pavilions, plazas and open spaces throughout the 70-hectare site.

At the Xerox International Theatre, entertainment ranges from Japan's Ikuta Shrine performers and Inuit throat singers to colonial dancers from the Philippines and aboriginal musicians from Australia. The covered outdoor Expo Theatre, which seats 4 200 spectators, also offers superb entertainment, while the Kodak Pacific Bowl presents the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride and a Chinese motorcycle thrill team performing inside an eight-metre-wide metal mesh globe.

A fireworks and laser show nightly at 10, signals the closing of the pavilions and the beginning of "Expo after hours". Located in the B.C. pavilion complex, three cabarets express the theme of transportation on land, sea and air, against a variety of whimsical sets.

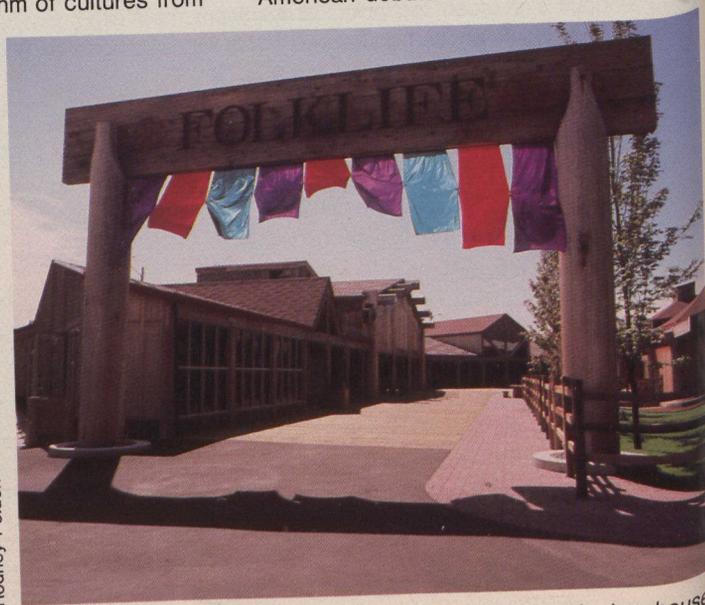
World arts festival

Both on the EXPO 86 site and in major theatres in Vancouver, the Royal Bank/Expo 86 World Festival is presenting the cultural diversity of over 30 countries in a 165-day celebration of the best of the performing arts. One of the gala events is a visit by Leningrad's Kirov Ballet, which is making its first North American appearance in more than two decades.

Twelve Canadian groups are offering various programs ranging from contemporary dance to orchestral concerts and opera, while the Beijing People's Art Theatre from the People's Republic of China, the West Australian Playhouse Company and the State Theatre of Heidelberg are making their North American debuts.



The Anna Wyman Dance Theatre presents contemporary dance.



Canada's folklife festival is in a special area with a cedar longhouse.