

News of the arts

Fiddler honoured with music degree

"Ti-Jean" Carignan, well-known French-Canadian fiddler, was recently presented with an honorary Doctor of Music degree at the annual Founder's Day Convocation at Montreal's McGill University on November 8.

The University wished not only to give due recognition to someone who is so central to the folklore and culture of Quebec, but also to acknowledge the excellence of a man who, through great efforts has brought one of the arts of music to a rare state of perfection.

Carignan, born in Lévis, Quebec, in 1916, is largely self-educated. He began fiddling in the streets at the age of five, and started work at the age of 11, apprenticed to a shoemaker for 25 cents a day.

He joined a group called George Wade's Corn Huskers in 1931, with whom he played for five years. From 1936 to 1954 he earned part of his living playing at St. André's Dance Hall in Montreal, and then joined Bob Hill's band for two years.

Since 1956, most of his time has been spent on concert tours and recordings in North America and Europe, and driving his taxi which he has only recently given up.

Carignan, who is always willing to teach his craft to others, was honoured recently by being made a Member of the Order of Canada.

McLaren exhibition in London

An exhibition of the work of film-maker Norman McLaren opened at Canada House in London on October 26. In addition to the screening of some of his films, the exhibition includes examples of McLaren's original artwork, some of the drawings which, although published, have never previously been exhibited and material illustrating McLaren's animation techniques. The exhibit closes November 25.

McLaren, one of the acclaimed artists of the cinema, has been making movies of universal appeal for over 40 years. During that time he and his films have received countless international honours. These include a Hollywood Academy Oscar, for *Neighbours* in 1952; a British Academy Award and the Grand Prize (Palme d'Or) at Cannes, for *Blinkety Blank* in 1955; and on three separate occasions first

prizes at Venice: for *Begone Dull Care*, 1950; *A Chairy Tale*, 1957; and *Lines-Vertical, Lines-Horizontal*, 1960. All are included in the program in London.

Born in 1914 in Stirling, McLaren studied interior design at Glasgow School of Art from 1932-36. It was there that he first began using film and several of these early works are shown at Canada House. These films contain the seeds of much of McLaren's later work. One of the techniques which was to become so characteristic of him, that of drawing directly on to the film, was used in the very first film he made in 1933.

In 1939 McLaren left Britain for the United States. During his short stay there he made some abstract animated films for the Guggenheim Museum of Non-Objective Art in New York. In 1941, McLaren moved to Canada to set up an animation unit for the recently-formed National Film Board of Canada, where he has worked ever since.

Toronto dance season

The Toronto autumn season of the National Ballet will feature two dancers of international acclaim, Erik Bruhn and Galina Samsova. Mr. Bruhn will appear in his own productions of *Coppelia* and *La Sylphide*; Miss Samsova will perform the leading role in *La Sylphide*.

The ten performances at the O'Keefe Centre from November 17 to 26 will include *Coppelia*, the merry fairy tale of the adventures of a toymaker, and two different programs of one-act ballets, two of which are Toronto *premières*: *Bayaderka (Act IV)*, the classic tale of Prince Solor searching for his dead betrothed, and *Collective Symphony*, a new work by the three choreographers of the Dutch National Ballet, which received critical acclaim during the highly successful New York season. Other works to be included in the evenings of mixed programs are: *Mad Shadows*, choreographed by Ann Ditchburn to music by André Gagnon, a story of violence and love in a rural Quebec family; *Monotones II*, a chamber work set to Erik Satie's famous *Trois Gymnopédies*; *Afternoon of a Faun*, the famous Debussy music with choreography by Jerome Robbins and *La Sylphide*, the romantic ballet of the Scottish youth James, who is bewitched by a sylph on his wedding day.

Arts briefs

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has sold 13 episodes of *The Beachcombers*, starring Bruno Gerussi, to the Soviet Union. France has purchased *Sarah Bernhardt*, a 90-minute drama starring Zoe Caldwell, and Guatemala and Nicaragua have bought the corporation's film of the National Ballet's production of *Giselle* (shown on the BBC last spring).

The Salzburg TV Opera Prize, awarded once every three years, was this year presented to Raymond and Beverley Pannell, of Toronto. Their short opera, *Aberfan*, won on the first ballot against entries from eight other countries, including Britain and Austria. According to Mr. Pannell, who composed the music, this year's award was the first ever won by a North American work.

Peter Moss, a native of Montreal, was recently named director of Stratford's Third Stage, whose season next year will include Larry Fineberg's *Medea*, a Samuel Beckett program, *The Wind and the Rain*, by Beverley Cross, and two yet unannounced Canadian plays.



Harry Rasky, director of the film *Homage to Chagall: The Colours of Love*, recently attended a reception in his honour at the Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles. The film, extremely well received by the Los Angeles film industry, has been nominated for an international Emmy award. An award of excellence, arranged by the Film Advisory Board (an international non-profit organization which promotes excellence in film-making) was presented to Mr. Rasky, who is shown here with the Consul General, Donald H. Gilchrist (centre) and Canadian actor Lloyd Bochner (right).