



Gilles Vigneault, upper left, is, perhaps, Québec's greatest chansonnier. Wilfrid Pelletier is the Director General of Music Teaching in the Province of Québec and Montréal and Québec symphony orchestras. Les Grands Ballets Canadiens is shown, center, in Catulli Carmina.

Director Claude Jutra discusses a scene with the great lady of the French-Canadian screen, Geneviève Bujold, during the filming of *Kamouraska*. Above is Lise Payette.

class section of Québec City, broke an ankle while skiing when he was 18 and spent the next eight years in wheelchairs. "I must express myself," he said later. "I really started to write because I couldn't do other things." He wrote his first novel, *Au pied de la pente douce*, when he was 25; an attack on the provincialism of Québec society. His radio and TV series, "*La famille Plouffe*," became immensely popular, in both French and English. He won a number of awards and two Guggenheim Fellowships and later became Québec correspondent for Time-Life and a writer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This year he was accepted into Paris' Académie Goncourt — the only Canadian to be so honoured.

Lise Payette

[APPELEZ MOI LISE]

Lise Payette is the most emphatic personality on Radio Canada.

The 42-year-old divorcée commands an audience of 800,000 to a million for an hour every night with a talk show, "*Appelez moi Lise*". The show is bright, aggressive, sometimes shocking. She began in Trois Rivières in 1954 with a flip-pant advice show called "*Not Allowed to Men*." She lived awhile in Paris and worked awhile in Montréal as a free-lance writer and then returned to radio and TV with a daily, one-hour show, "*Place aux femmes*," succeeded by "*D'une jour à l'autre*" and then by "*Studio 11*".

Le Chansonnier

Gilles Vigneault is, perhaps, Québec's greatest chansonnier. A chansonnier in Québec is not simply a "singer" and he is not, as he is in France, simply a singer of satirical, political songs. At his best he is, like Vigneault, a poet expressing the aspirations of a people. The age of the chansonnier began in Québec, perhaps with Felix Leclerc, and took on a new momentum in 1960 when

Vigneault began setting his poems to music. Recently, in an interview with *The Canadian Composer*, Vigneault had things to say about his music, his country and his philosophy.

"So it happened that the first mirror in which the Québécois recognized themselves was 'la chanson' — you could call it a mirror that was flattering or informing, or misshaping or deforming — but a mirror all the same. And it wasn't a living room mirror, it was a pocket mirror, a good one, because it was handy, extremely practical, extremely portable..."

"In 1960, when I, along with a lot of others, came on the scene . . . it coincided with an election that opened a lot of doors, that opened up the flood gates. That was the time the Province of Québec de-Duplessisized itself . . . that started the big thaw, a sort of great awakening, when we decided to recognize everything and everybody and give letters of credit to our own people . . ."

Rejean Ducharme

Réjean Ducharme is Canada's most obscure literary celebrity.

He does not give interviews.

Few people know what he looks like since he will not be photographed.

He wins many prizes but will not accept them in person.

He lives at an unpublished address and he works at night and he tells no one, not even his charming wife, what he is working on.

M. Ducharme, 32, was born in St. Félix de Valois, and he now lives near Montréal. He has written five novels (one in verse), all published by Gallimard, the biggest publishing house in Paris. His works are surrealistic, poetic, with powerful, obscure symbolism and involved word play which makes it difficult to translate them. His first book, *Avalée des avalés*, was rendered into English by Barbara Bray and published by Hamilton of London, as *The Swallower Swallowed*. He has won the Governor-General's Award for fiction twice, in 1967 and 1973, and a special award from the Government of Québec. He was nominated for the Goncourt, France's highest literary award, and he is a Guggenheim Fellow. He attended school at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montréal and he has traveled extensively in the Arctic, the U.S. and Mexico. He is married to Claire Richard, an outgoing actress, and they live with, she says, "five cats, an ugly dog and no children, of course." He works, one understands, as a proofreader and a foreign editor, though he appears to resist magazine assignments. When the editor of *Maclean's Magazine* wishes to have him contribute an article he