

This is now changing, and across Canada new kinds of experimental theatre are emerging. They call themselves everything from community theatres to theatre communes, from experimental laboratories to underground playhouses, from guerilla theatres to outlets for Canadian playwrights. This "separate" stage is charged with nationalism and it likes to think of itself as "a home for the Canadian playwright". In addition to producing new playwrights, these theatres offer the most important "break-in" centres for new directors, actors and designers.

Indian culture is also undergoing a resurgence. The participation of Indian artists in Canada's centennial celebrations started the organization that today is advancing the cause of Indian cultural relations. Never has the outlook been more promising for the development and encouragement of Canada's native people as actors, singers, musicians, dancers, directors and playwrights.

The Dominion Drama Festival was formed in 1932 to help live theatre to survive in Canada. Theatre Canada, its successor, adheres to the original philosophy and objectives, tailored to the needs of the 1970s. For four decades the Festival has thus been a stimulating and constructive influence on Canada's theatre. Its nation-wide competitions and the encouragement given to Canadian playwrights and the formation of drama companies have contributed much to the vitality of the stage in Canada. By moving around the country, the Dominion Drama Festival fulfilled the implication of the "Dominion" in its name. It is probably less important that the theatre it offered was non-professional than that it provided an outlet for several generations of actors who maintained themselves by other occupations during the day.

While the Festival's main purpose was simply to hold a three-act play competition, it has contributed to a much wider area of Canadian theatre. Its 13 regions, set up to provide preliminary competitions, also serve as the geographical and organizational basis for drama and theatre groups and other organizations. As new opportunities for employment in the professional theatre have appeared, many "graduates" of the Dominion Drama Festival have filled them. In recent years, other organizations and media have also begun to take on the responsibility of supplying members to the professional stage, but the Drama Festival has continued to expand its role by involving itself in the solution of problems of the Canadian theatre. At the same time, it has maintained its role of providing the opportunity for participation in, and appreciation of, the theatre at the non-professional level.

Developments in Music

The production and performance of good music has increased notably in Canada in recent years. While Canadian composition generally reflects international trends, inspiration from Canadian literary and historical sources and Indian, Eskimo and French-Canadian motifs can be detected. Publicly-controlled broadcasting and television have proved of great benefit to Canadian composers, both in making their work known and in contributing to their income. Commercial sponsorship too has been the source of much assistance.