

News of the arts

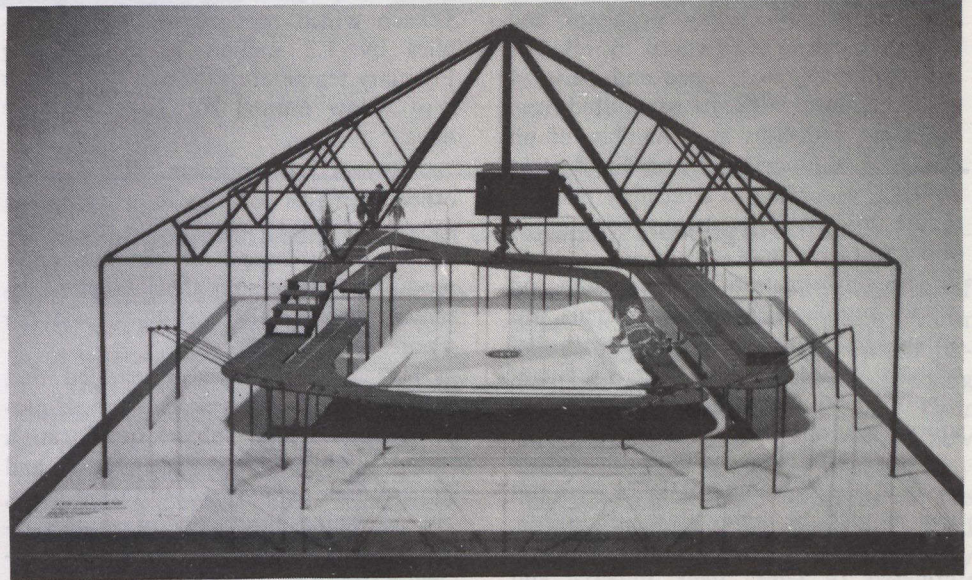
Theatre designs win special mention at Prague Quadrennial

For the second consecutive time, Canada has won special mention at the leading design and architecture congress, the Prague Quadrennial in Czechoslovakia.

The set and costume works of five designers, and architectural achievements by seven firms were entered in the Canadian exhibit at the 1979 event, which ended July 2.

The Canadian entry in the international exposition and competition was chosen by the Associated Designers of Canada and was sponsored by the Department of External Affairs.

The five designers were selected to reflect the vast diversity of scenic design in Canada. The designers and works chosen were: Susan Benson, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Stratford Festival); Michael Eagan, *The Dream Play*, *Woyzeck*, *De La Manipulation de Dieu* (National Arts Centre); Astrid Janson, *Les Canadiens*, *Esmeralda and the Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Toronto Workshop Productions); Cameron Porteous, *Oedipus*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *The Crucible* (Vancouver Playhouse) and Robert Prevost, *Les Fourberies de Scapin* (Theatre de Nouveau Monde).



The set for Les Canadiens designed by Astrid Janson.

The four-yearly competition is sponsored by the Czechoslovakian ministry of culture as a world forum of scenic and costume design and theatre architecture. This year a special exhibit on puppets and marionettes was presented to mark the International Year of the Child. The Canadian entry featured the work of

Felix Mirbt in addition to that of seven puppet companies from across Canada.

Parts of the Canadian exhibition will be presented at Canada House in London in September and October and at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris in November and December.

Canada-Wales writers exchange

The Canada Council and the Welsh Academy of Writers recently announced a new exchange program for writers from both countries.

Under the program, a Welsh writer will visit Canada for a week to ten days of talks, seminars and readings, as the guest of a Canadian writer. At a later date, the Canadian will visit Wales for a similar period.

The Canadian writer will be chosen by the Canada Council; and the Welsh counterpart will be chosen by the Welsh Academy of Writers. Return air fare for the Canadian writer will be paid by the Canada Council, and for the Welsh writer by the Academy. Accommodation will be the responsibility of the host writer.

The exchange program is open to English-speaking writers who have had a successful writing career over a number of years in the area of fiction, poetry or drama, and who are still active in their profession.

A whale of an exhibit

For the second year in a row the Museum of Natural Science in Ottawa is sponsoring two whale-sighting excursions on the St. Lawrence River.

The three-day excursions aboard a research vessel in late August and early September will be open to the public at a cost of \$203 for the trip starting in Ottawa.

Although there can be no guarantees of whales being sighted, five species of whale have been seen in the area selected for the excursions, say museum officials.

Meanwhile a whale exhibit, attempting to raise public awareness of the great mammals, opened at the museum recently.

The exhibit offers a glimpse into the history of whale hunting and a look at the lives of whales through a series of films, workshops and a family theatre.

The display is scheduled to travel the country, although an itinerary has not yet been announced.

Arts briefs

Film director Robin Spry has begun shooting an all-Canadian production of *Suzanne*, based on *The Snow Lark*, a novel by Ronald Sutherland, who wrote the screenplay with Mr. Spry. The movie, estimated to cost \$1.5 million, is being produced by Robert Lantos and Stephen J. Roth. The story is set in Montreal in the Forties, Fifties and Sixties, and filming will be on location in Montreal. Jennifer Dale will take the part of Suzanne. Others in the cast are Gabriel Arcand and Michele Rossignol of Montreal and Winston Rekert of Vancouver.

The first Canadian gallery to be devoted to theatre design was recently opened at Harbourfront in Toronto. The gallery, opened with the work of designer Mary Kerr, and will have monthly exhibits from members of the Associated Designers of Canada over the next year. The shows will consist of drawings, full renderings, photographs, models and costumes, all with accompanying texts.