

# CANADA HONOURED AT THE 2002 CERVANTINO FESTIVAL

Canada is in the spotlight this October as the city of Guanajuato, in central Mexico, hosts the 30th annual Cervantino Festival. This is one of Latin America's leading multidisciplinary festivals of the arts. It has an ideal setting in Guanajuato: a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city was founded in 1546 and boasts superb architecture. In the 30-year history of the festival, this is only the second time that the focus is on the artists and cultural work of one specific country.

The Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DEAIT) has worked closely with the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City to ensure that Canada's best—representing a wide range of talent from across the country—is on display at this year's festival. Division Director Curtis Barlow says, "The festival offers a prestigious world stage in a priority region. This is a golden opportunity to promote a positive image of Canada as culturally diverse, creative, innovative and modern."

Many Canadian artists and cultural groups are appearing at the 2002 Cervantino Festival. Among them:

- Grand Dérangement is a lively Nova Scotia-based group of Acadian musicians and dancers. Its sound is a fusion of styles that sets the stage reverberating and makes listeners feel like joining in.
- Also from Nova Scotia, Mermaid Theatre is presenting *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Quiet Cricket*, by Eric Carle. Both of them favourites of young audiences, the performances take



A member of Montreal troupe Les gens d'R in performance



Grand Dérangement, a group of Acadian musicians and dancers based in Nova Scotia

photo: courtesy Les gens d'R

photo: Sue Mills