

## Films international festival winners

Five Canadian films won acclaim recently at international festivals in Bulgaria and Prague.

Canadian films won awards in four out of eight health categories at the Varna International Film Festival in Bulgaria.

John Kastner's CBC television documentary *Four Women* — a moving account of how four women faced the trauma of breast cancer surgery — won the Varna Grand Prize for television features at the festival for Red Cross and health films.

Montreal director Robin Spry won the Best Direction Award for the National Film Board TV film *One Man*, while other NFB films, *Water — A Hazardous Necessity* and *I'll Find A Way* won silver medals in their respective environment and health categories.

*Water — A Hazardous Necessity* was filmed in Africa and directed by Tina Viljoen. Academy Award-winning *I'll Find A Way* was produced by filmmaker Beverley Shaffer.

In Prague, a film produced by the Canadian Television network (CTV) won the award for the best TV interpretation of a concert work at the international television festival.

The film won the award on the strength of using Igor Stravinsky's ballet score *The Rite of Spring* as its background music.

## Canada Council Molson Prizes

The 1978 Canada Council Molson Prizes have been awarded to Betty Oliphant of Toronto, director and principal of the National Ballet School, Michael Snow of Toronto, artist, and Jean Duceppe of Montreal, actor and theatre director.

The prizes, each worth \$20,000 are funded by the Molson Foundation and have been awarded annually since 1963 to recognize outstanding contributions to the arts, humanities or social sciences.

Miss Oliphant was appointed ballet mistress of the newly-formed National Ballet of Canada in 1951 and, in 1959, established the National Ballet School, the first of its kind in North America.

Michael Snow is internationally known for his work in film-making, painting, sculpture, photography and music. His

one-man exhibitions have been shown at museums and galleries in Canada and abroad. *Wavelength*, his best-known film, won first prize at the Fourth International Experimental Film Competition at Knocke, Belgium, in 1967.

A veteran of television and theatre, Jean Duceppe has acted in plays with the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and the Théâtre du Rideau Vert. He won the Canadian Film Festival's best actor award for his interpretation of the title role in *Mon Oncle Antoine*.

## Children's theatre delights Russian and Swiss audiences

The Montreal-based national theatre for children — Les Pissenlits — recently completed a successful three-week tour of the USSR and one week of performances in Switzerland.



*Les Pissenlits in a scene from Gulliver.*

In the Soviet Union, Les Pissenlits gave 16 performances of *Gulliver*, an adaptation in French of Jonathan Swift's famous story, to sold-out houses. Children and adults participated through sing-alongs and dialogue because René Lemieux, who played the role of Gulliver, had learned to deliver essential lines in Russian.

The company was praised by Soviet and Swiss audiences and critics. Official tribute was paid to the company by the Soviet Bureau of the International Association of Theatres for Children and Youth. Also, the Congress of Soviet Theatre Directors, which was meeting in Moscow and attended a performance, said

it hoped Les Pissenlits would perform again in the USSR.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported that, "Soviet spectators everywhere warmly received the play *Gulliver* and the art of the Canadian friends aroused a lively interest among children and adult spectators. Very interesting were the acting and the way the play was produced".

During their three weeks in the USSR, the company met with Soviet actors, technicians and directors and visited children's theatres, museums, and music, fine arts and theatre art studios. Jean-Yves Gaudreault, said he was impressed with the instruction available to Soviet children in the performing arts.

In Geneva, le Théâtre des Pissenlits opened the International Festival of Children's Theatre. One thousand people crowded into the 400-seat auditorium. Later the company gave three other performances for school children.

## Arts briefs

Rudi van Dantzig, artistic director of the Dutch National Ballet, has offered positions in his company to Alan Land, Jane Lord and Lindsay Fisher from the National Ballet School, following the school's conference in Toronto in late February. The dancers will be going to the Netherlands next season.

Canadian films sold at the Cannes Film Festival this year totalled \$22 million, a 1,100 percent increase over the previous year, the Canadian Film Development Corporation's executive director Michael McCabe said recently.

The Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, will mark its fifteenth anniversary this summer with displays illustrating the history of Canada's national memorial to the Fathers of Confederation. Costumes from the Charlottetown festival's biggest hit musicals, set models, props, design illustrations and production photographs will all be a part of the interior displays. Former prime minister, John Diefenbaker, will be the guest speaker at the fifteenth annual dinner meeting of the Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust. Other special activities will emphasize the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the first meeting of the Fathers of Confederation, at Province House, Prince Edward Island.