



Graceful herons, egrets and ibis shown in photographs.

Elegance of big birds captured in exhibit

Long Legged Wading Birds
Photographic Exhibit of Philip Loring Greene
Provincial Museum
Run ends November 22

by Elaine Ostry

If all you can remember of the Provincial Museum is a field trip in grade two to see the wildlife dioramas, it's time for another visit. The museum is now showing an excellent photographic exhibit of long legged wading birds that is worth a look.

The photographs, taken by Philip Loring Greene, are breathtaking. These 35mm originals capture the long-limbed grace of birds belonging to the Ibis, Heron, and Egret families. There is a bewildering variety of birds within each major family. The birds differ according to size and colour, but they are all beautiful.

The photographs capture the birds' elegance in silhouettes and closeups. The birds even seem to have personalities: the little red bird that looked like a sad old man comes to mind. The photographs are finely detailed. Particularly interesting are the shots in which translucent wings screen the sun. The silhouettes are especially startling in their stark beauty, as the long thin legs and necks

of the birds mingle with the bare limbs of trees.

Recently, the photographer himself spoke at the museum, giving background information about some of his work. Philip Loring Greene, an American, began to photograph the long legged wading birds in his backyard while he was still a university student.

Greene described photographing birds as an endeavour that requires "a lot of time — and a lot of film." But field study, "an amazing experience", has its rewards. Greene described following a path "under the underbrush" around an island a quarter mile long, "carrying a three foot lens on a tripod" — to come across an area filled with "hundreds of birds".

Greene also described the different habits of the birds. The Ibis are "tremendous group feeders and great jokers." The Reddish Egrets search for food in a way that makes "people say they're drunk" — but they know exactly what they're doing.

The exhibit has been shown at the British Museum (Natural History) in London, as well as the Helsinki Zoological Museum. The exhibit will remain in Edmonton until November 22, when it will move to the Taiwan Museum in Taipei.

Magic of Niagara Falls shown in IMAX film

Niagara: Miracles, Myths, and Magic
Devonian Theatre
Edmonton Space Sciences Centre

review by Glenn St-Germain

Niagara Falls is one of the natural wonders of the world. The two cataracts straddling the Canada - U.S. border is a breathtaking sight. The splendour of Niagara has been captured in a new IMAX film, *Niagara: Miracles, Myths and Magic*.

For those of you unfamiliar with IMAX, the IMAX process uses oversized film projected onto a giant screen. The screen at the Edmonton Space Sciences Centre is four stories high and six stories wide.

The screen is large enough to show the Falls in their glory. The Falls are 165 feet high, with a combined width of 3,260 feet (2,200 feet for the Canadian falls, 1,060 for the American). The Falls, the treacherous gorge below, and the surrounding scenery are seen from a variety of vantage points.

Combined with an incredible sound system, the IMAX presentation is an awesome sight. The Grand Canyon has been a perennial favourite at the Centre; *Niagara* is made

by the same production company.

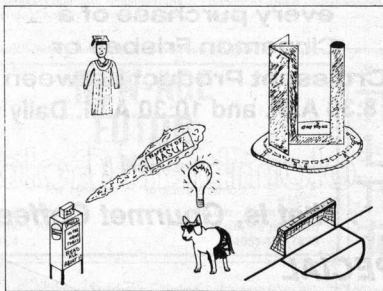
The 45-minute film is more than just scenic shots of the falls. In documentary form, it recreates some of the history of the falls, from the Maiden of the Mist Indian legend to daredevil stunts in, on, and over the falls.

Among the re-created events is the tight-rope walk of The Great Blondin in 1860 over the Canadian (Horseshoe) Falls, performed by aerialist Philippe Petit. (Petit was the man who strung a line between the two towers of the 110-storey World Trade Center in New York City, and walked back and forth on the line until the police arrested him.) The recreation was done over the falls, not in a studio.

Other re-created events offer edge-of-the-seat excitement: the first person (Toronto schoolteacher Annie Taylor) to go over the falls in a barrel in 1901, and seven-year-old Roger Woodward's plunge over the falls without a lifejacket in 1960 (the only person to have done so and live to tell about it)...

Niagara plays at the Edmonton Space Sciences Centre until January, in the province's only IMAX theatre. The falls are over 2,000 miles away; the film is the next best thing to being there.

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A new clue will be published every Tuesday (and Wednesday, October 14) in the Gateway until the coupon is found. A summary of the clues to date will be available at DEWEY'S and R.A.T.T. every Tuesday evening (or on Wednesday, October 14 instead of October 13) so that you can review the clues while enjoying a cold Bud Light!

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