

## King Lear to open Stratford Festival

The program for the 1985 Stratford Festival, which will open officially on May 26 in the Festival Theatre with William Shakespeare's powerful tragedy, *King Lear*, has been announced by John Hirsch, who is in his fifth and final season as the festival's artistic director.

The 1985 Stratford Festival season will continue through October 13.



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Amelia Hall and Douglas Campbell in the 1984 production of *Tartuffe*. Douglas Campbell will lead the cast in this year's production of *King Lear*.

The festival's thirty-third season will include nine productions with four staged in the Festival Theatre, three in the Avon Theatre and two Young Company productions to run at the Third Stage. Works will include three plays by William Shakespeare, a classic Greek tragedy, a Gilbert and Sullivan musical, comedies by Nikolai Gogol, Oliver Goldsmith and George Farquhar and a drama by Tennessee Williams.

In addition to *King Lear*, the other Shakespeare plays to be presented in the Festival Theatre are *Twelfth Night* to open May 28 and *Measure for Measure* following on May 29. *The Government Inspector* by Nikolai Gogol will join the Festival Theatre repertory in August.

The title role in *King Lear* will be played by an eminent Canadian actor, Douglas Campbell. A member of the inaugural 1953 Festival Acting Company, Mr. Campbell will be active in his eighteenth season at Stratford. One of the successes he was in last season, *Tartuffe*, was aired March 31

on the national network of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television.

Some of the other actors appearing in Festival Theatre productions include Edward Atienza, James Blendick, Benedict Campbell, Seana McKenna, Nicholas Pennell, Alan Scarfe, Barbara March, Lewis Gordon and Richard McMillan.

### New musical

Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* will be the musical presented at the Avon Theatre during the 1985 season. This production will include many from the Avon Theatre Musical Company who enjoyed a great deal of success with the past three seasons of Gilbert and Sullivan productions at the Avon Theatre. Festival associate director Brian Macdonald, who staged all three previous seasons' Gilbert and Sullivan productions, will return to direct the production with Berthold Carriere returning as musical director.

Productions scheduled for later in the summer at the Avon Theatre are Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* and Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. David William, director of the 1984 Festival production of *Separate Tables*, will stage *She Stoops to Conquer* with set design by Phillip Silver and costume design by Christina Poddubiuk. The award-winning



Patricia Conolly as Titania and Nicholas Pennell as Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Stratford in 1984. Miss Conolly will appear in *The Beaux Stratagem* and Mr. Pennell will appear in *King Lear*, *Twelfth Night* and *Measure for Measure* this season.



Colm Feore and Seana McKenna in *Romeo and Juliet*. They will both appear in a number of 1985 Stratford productions.

actress Sada Thompson will play Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie* scheduled to open August 30.

Stratford Festival artistic director-designate John Neville will supervise the 1985 Young Company program, which will include the presentation of two productions at the Third Stage. They will be Sophocles' classic Greek tragedy, *Antigone*, and George Farquhar's early eighteenth century comedy, *The Beaux' Stratagem*. David William will direct *Antigone*.

### Music series

The Sounds of Summer musical concerts series will feature some of the jazz world's greatest artists. The opening attraction will be Dave Brubeck and the Dave Brubeck Quartet. Subsequent concerts include Melissa Manchester, Al Hirt and the Al Hirt Quartet, Dionne Warwick, Judy Collins, Sarah Vaughan, and the Dizzy and Moe Jazz Supershow featuring Dizzy Gillespie and Moe Koffman.

The Celebrity Lecture Series, in its fourth year at Stratford will feature Leslie Fiedler, Philip Edwards, Northrop Frye, Peter Ustinov, S. Schoenbaum, Peter Newman and John Hirsch. Special events include Meet the Festival, Post Performance Discussions and Backstage Tours.

Two exhibitions will also be on view: *Attired in Wonder* includes some of the most exquisitely designed and decorated costumes from the Stratford archives; and *Gilbert and Sullivan Tonight* includes posters, photographs and playbills from the D'Oyly Carte Opera and costumes from previous Stratford Festival productions.