

News of the arts

Performers entertain at Edinburgh festival



Nir Bareket

The Dream Play by August Strindberg at the Edinburgh festival.

More than 350 Canadians took part in the thirty-fourth Edinburgh International Festival held August 17 to September 6.

Canadian musical performers at the festival included jazz pianist Oscar Peterson, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Canadian Brass, the Celtic folk group from Quebec called Barde and the Vancouver Pipe Band which played in the famous military tattoo at the castle overlooking the city.

Two Canadian exhibitions were presented: the first large-scale exhibit outside Canada of the works of the late

abstract artist Jack Bush, and *The Legacy*, a show of northwest coast Indian art.

In addition, the Vancouver East Cultural Centre staged six performances of the musical *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, the story in words and music of Canada's First World War flying ace, featuring Eric Peterson.

Using puppets and actors, Ottawa's National Arts Centre staged three performances of the English version of *Woyzeck* by George Buchner and the French version of August Strindberg's, *The Dream Play (Le Songe)*.

lections of exhibition and auction sale catalogues, slides and art reference works. The appendices may be used as a reference and location tool, and for collection development. Volume I also describes collections of archival materials, vertical files, tapes, photographs, microforms, catalogues and slides. In addition, it contains a list of the more than 200 institutions whose collections are included in the report. Statistical data about collections and services, organization and staffing of specialized art libraries and of art library departments of general libraries are given in Volume II.

Fine Arts Library Resources in Canada is available from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S9.

Arts library resources in Canada

The resources of more than 200 libraries in the field of fine arts have been inventoried in a report now published by the National Library of Canada, which will greatly facilitate access to these collections by interested Canadian readers and researchers.

Fine Arts Library Resources in Canada is the report of a survey conducted by the National Library of Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian Art Libraries Committee of the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services.

The report is in two volumes. Volume I includes a narrative summary of findings and appendices, giving detailed information on the content and location of col-

Canada/Australia literary award

The Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council and the Literary Board of the Australia Council recently announced that the winner of the 1979 Canada/Australia Literary Prize is Canadian poet Michael Ondaatje.

The prize, valued at \$2,500, is intended to help make better known in Australia and Canada the work of each other's writers. Mr. Ondaatje is the fourth recipient of this annual award. Australian playwright John Romeril received the inaugural award in 1976; Canadian writer Alice Munro was the 1977 winner and Australian poet Thomas Shapcott won in 1978.

Each year an Australian or Canadian writer is chosen by a panel of judges from the other country. This year the Canada Council submitted works by six authors to the Australian jury. Next year the procedure will be reversed.

The prize is not restricted to any particular category of creative writing; novelists, poets and playwrights are equally eligible. It is awarded for a writer's total output rather than for a single work.

The prize is financed on the Australian side by the Australia Council and on the Canadian side by the Department of External Affairs as part of its program of cultural relations with foreign countries. The award is administered for the department by the Canada Council.

The winner

Born in Ceylon in 1943, Michael Ondaatje lived in England for several years before moving to Canada in 1962.

He is best known as a poet, but has also made documentary films and written literary criticism. His *Collected Works of Billy the Kid*, a poetry-prose sequence, won a Governor General's literary award for 1970 and was later adapted for theatre by the writer. *There's a Trick with a Knife I'm Learning to Do*, composed of poems written between 1963 and 1978, won the Governor General's award for 1979.

As part of the Canada/Australia award, each recipient is invited to visit the host country. The winner for 1978, Australian poet Thomas Shapcott will be visiting Canada this autumn as a guest of the Department of External Affairs.