

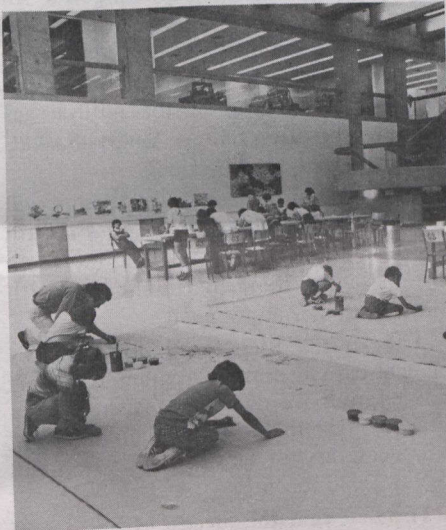
News of the arts

Gallery's new Canadian Wing opens

The new Canadian Wing of Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario, which completes a major, \$23-million expansion program planned since 1964, opened on September 24. As well as providing a permanent home for the Gallery's Canadian collection and long-awaited space and resources for the Education Branch, it will bring the Reference Library and Extension Services back to the building from their off-site locations.

Galleries devoted to the permanent display of the Canadian collection consist of the skylit Canadian Contemporary Gallery, with 4,800 square feet of space and the suite of three Canadian Historical Galleries totalling some 7,000 square feet.

Through gifts and private support for purchases, the Canadian collection has grown to include almost 3,000 paintings, sculptures, drawings and graphics. In the acquisition of earlier Canadian art, aesthetic considerations outweigh the more historical and documentary interests that characterize many public collections of Canadiana. The scope of the collection is extensive, ranging from a mid-eighteenth century wood carving of *Virgin and Child* by an unknown French-Canadian sculptor to a recently purchased mixed-media



Art Gallery of Ontario

Students of the Art Gallery of Ontario's Gallery School work in the new facilities of the Activity Centre, part of the Gallery's Canadian Wing. The Activity Centre is the heart of the Gallery's educational programs. From a mezzanine area, the public will be able to observe classes and works in progress, including large-scale projects being developed in the centre by prominent Canadian artists.

work by Betty Goodwin, *Tarpaulin No. 8* (1976), and now comprises close to one-half of the Gallery's permanent holdings.

The expansion program has been financed by both public and private funds. Stage 1, completed in 1974, received a \$12.9-million grant from the province of Ontario and private and corporate donations totalling \$5.5 million. A \$4-million grant from the Department of the Secretary of State through the National Museums of Canada helped finance the new Canadian wing.

Canadian play appears in Dublin

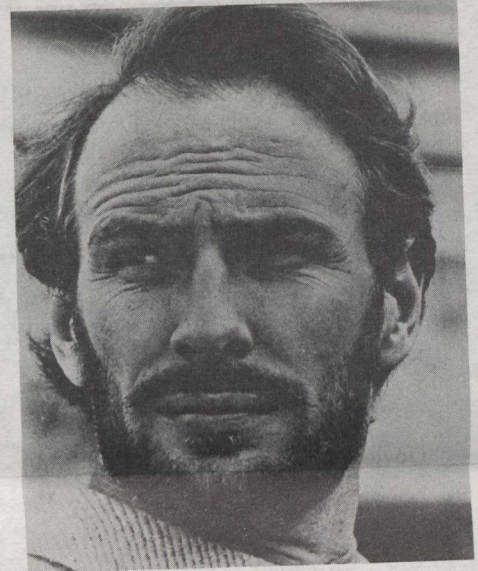
Irish actress Siobhan McKenna announced recently that she would appear in a four-week run of *Memoir* by Canadian playwright John Murrell in Dublin's Olympia Theatre, starting November. Murrell's play, which had its *première* at the Guelph Spring Festival in Ontario last May, deals with the last days of Sarah Bernhardt.

Murrell is a prolific young playwright from Calgary whose latest play *A Great Noise, A Great Light*, which deals with the Aberhardt era in Alberta, will be produced this year in Toronto. He is also working on a new translation of *Uncle Vanya* by Chekov, which will be seen at the Stratford Festival in 1978.

Whitehead leaves Shaw Festival

Paxton Whitehead, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, completes his association with the Festival at the end of this, his tenth, season.

Mr. Whitehead was Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival from 1967-1974 and again in 1976 and 1977. As a result of his sound management the new Shaw Theatre, described as 'the finest new theatre in North America' was opened in 1973, designed by Canadian architect Ron Thom, in consultation with Mr. Whitehead, and other Shaw Festival staff. Since 1966, when Mr. Whitehead first came to the Festival to appear in *Man and Superman*, *Misalliance*, and *The Apple Cart*, he has produced 22 Shaw plays at the Festival, and 12 plays of other authors, as well as appearing in more Shaw plays than any other actor of his generation.



Paxton Whitehead, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival.

During his tenure Festival productions have been seen several times at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, as well as in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Halifax, Boston, and Philadelphia. The first foreign company to appear at Washington's Kennedy Center, the Shaw Festival returned several times to considerable acclaim, most notably with Mr. Whitehead's production of *Misalliance*.

Paxton Whitehead's final performances at the Shaw Festival will be in Ben Travers' *Thark*. He has also appeared this summer in Shaw's *Great Catherine* and *The Millionaire*. He will be replaced by Richard Kirschner, for the past two years Executive Director of the Shaw Festival, who was recently appointed producer for the 1978 season.

Mr. Whitehead, much in demand as an actor, is likely to become a frequent guest of principal companies in North America.

Pianist honoured in Budapest

Canadian pianist Robert Silverman has been awarded the 1977 Grand Prix du Disque in the Piano Solo Category by the Liszt Society (founded in 1893) in Budapest. Silverman is rapidly gaining a substantial reputation in Canada both as a performer and as a teacher. He is scheduled to perform in November with the BBC Orchestra in London and has been invited with several other Canadian musicians to perform in the Soviet Union in January.