



National Film Board productions are seen by large cinema and television audiences in Canada and overseas

Films

Feature-length fiction films are rarely produced in Canada but, generally speaking, Canadian artists have found a ready acceptance by foreign film producers. Canadian documentary films are outstanding, owing largely to the efforts of the National Film Board, which circulates motion pictures, film strips and still photographs of cultural, national and international interest.

The Board has won well over one

hundred international awards since 1942. These range from Hollywood "Oscars" to the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. Twenty-three of these awards have gone to films made by Norman McLaren, a gifted animator who draws, paints and scratches, directly on film, harmonies of sound and design.

This pioneering public film production has stimulated many private companies in the field of the commercial documentary, several of which have also gained top awards in international competition.

Radio and Television

The publicly-owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has become a vital force in Canadian life. It commissions original music, poetry, drama and opera and provides scope for Canadian artists in their own country. It provides news, weather forecasts and crop information to tiny settlements in the hinterland as far north as the Arctic Circle. Some of its programmes, especially in the dramatic and documentary fields, have gained international acclaim. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has consistently won top awards in competition with United States networks. Its Wednesday Night radio programme—an entire evening of music, drama, commentary, or recital of mature appeal—is unique on the continent and has had its counterparts in various television programmes.

International Service

The international branch of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

broadcasts on shortwave to foreign countries a total of ninety hours weekly in English, French, Swedish, Czech, Slovak, Russian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Polish. The service offers to foreign broadcasters free transcriptions in English, French and Spanish dealing with many aspects of life in Canada. Musical transcriptions of Canadian compositions and performers are also available. Programmes are broadcast not only to foreign countries but also to northern Canada and to Canadian troops in Europe.

Architecture

The first effective and original expressions of Canadian architecture were the igloo and the tepee; following those, the log cabin. However, Canadian architects have borrowed heavily from their neighbours in the United States and their forbears in Europe. The Georgian and Regency-style houses of Toronto, the Norman-esque dwellings of Quebec, the Gothic and classical influence in the facades of many public buildings are all part of old-world traditions. The United States' influence can be seen in the low spacious houses of the West Coast and in the newer factories and industrial buildings of Eastern Canada. But in some communities—notably in Vancouver, one of the least traditional of all Canadian cities—regional styles of architecture are developing.

Architecture is young in Canada and architects are still feeling their way toward a combination of aesthetic appeal and distinctive style, with the solution of problems of local climate, terrain and materials.