

# News of the arts

## Nelligan captures London

The "exquisite Kate Nelligan", the young actress from London, Ontario who left the University of Toronto to study acting in Britain, has elicited further praise from the critics who lauded her appearance on the English stage a few years ago in David Hare's play *Knuckle*.



Kate Nelligan

Audiences are now turning out to the National Theatre to see her performance as Susan in Hare's play *Plenty*, a performance which has prompted *The Times* to view Susan as "the most consummately megalomaniac shrew to darken the stage since Shaw's Cleopatra".

## Memphis honours Canada

"Memphis in May the Canadian Way" is one of the slogans for this year's Memphis in May International Festival, a month-long annual event held in Memphis, Tennessee, designed to promote travel, business and cultural exchanges between that city and a foreign country. This year Canada has been invited to be the honoured country.

The Canadian Consulate in Atlanta, says the April issue of *Arts Bulletin*, will provide three major exhibits, several film projects and educational programs as well as assisting advisers for performing and visual arts activities. All the Canadian provinces have been invited to participate.

A major crafts project, called Maple Leaf Festival, is being planned for May 20 and 21 in conjunction with the festi-

val. It will take place in a nearby community called Germantown and will involve over 150 craftsmen — weavers, potters, sculptors, woodcarvers, jewellers, leather-workers etc. from Canada and the U.S. Also featured will be several folk musicians, including Jesse Winchester, a Memphis-born singer who emigrated to Canada at the age of 19.

A documentary film will be made of the festival for possible use on a major network later in the season.

## Arts subsidies decline

According to the Canada Council's twentieth annual report, covering 1976-77, grants and services worth \$32,558,000 were provided by the Council to the arts disciplines. Although the corresponding figure for the previous year was \$30,400,000, in constant (1971) dollars, total assistance by the Council to the arts declined for the first time.

### 1976-77 contributions

Theatre received the largest subsidy, \$7,818,000, most of which was used to support 124 organizations, including over 100 performing companies.

Music and opera accounted for \$7,733,000, most of which was shared by 91 music groups and organizations and 71 amateur choirs. Referring to amateur choirs, the report notes that the Council's juries "have been pleased and a little surprised at how much excellent work is being done in various parts of the country". The Council also awarded grants for the commissioning and copying costs of 61 original works by Canadian composers and gave 38 grants to musicians working in local communities or as artists-in-residence.

Out of a total of \$2,569,000 devoted to dance, \$2,310,338 went to 24 ballet and modern dance companies and organizations. (This does not include a \$913,000-grant to the National Ballet of Canada, given for the 1976-77 season, which was put into the previous year's budget.) Most of the balance provided grants to individual dancers and choreographers. The Council report notes the important role played by the small experimental dance companies in recent years, and "the increase in the number of productions based on the work of freelance choreographers".

Assistance to authors, publishers and

translators totalled \$5,845,000, the major part going to publishers. The Council also supported 66 periodicals, funded book purchases and donations, promotion tours by authors, and public readings by Canadian writers.

Grants and services to the visual arts and photography amounted to \$3,633,000, plus \$755,000 for purchases of works for the Art Bank by some 271 artists. The Council also supported 65 galleries, museums and workshops, and gave direct assistance to a large number of individual artists.

In film and video, grants totalled \$1,531,000 and supported, among other things, 42 film and 17 video productions and over 40 organizations, including film and video libraries, workshops, access and distribution centres and technical services.

With a budget of \$2,027,000, the Council's Touring Office subsidized and helped to organize 54 tours of performing artists and organizations, "many of them going to well over a dozen places".

## World sculpture conference

More than 1,200 sculptors, educators, curators, art critics and artists from many parts of the world are expected to attend the four-day Tenth International Sculpture Conference at York University in Toronto on May 31.

*Sculpture Today* is the theme of the 1978 conference. Participants include over 150 Canadian and international art experts, such as Carl Andre, Louis Archambault, Jack Burnham, Anthony Caro, Mark di Suvero, Kosso Eloul, Mathias Goeritz, Clement Greenberg, Michael Hayden, Allan Kaprow, Rockne Krebs, Les Levine, Robert Murray, Beverly Pepper, George Rickey and George Segal. Henry Moore is the honorary conference chairman. Registrations have been received from over 34 countries covering five continents.

The program will offer seminars, panel discussions and workshops on welding, bronze and metal casting, plastics and ceramic sculpture, dalic-plating and spray-metalizing, as well as holography, micro-computer programming and electronics.

The focus on sculpture will spread city-wide so that the general public can participate in events like the Environmental Sculpture Display, staged by the Harbourfront Art Gallery. (over)