

STRATFORD STUDENT MATINEES

During the final three weeks of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, the most inquisitive, alert and uninhibited of audiences are converging on the Festival Theatre. Climaxing the highly successful twelfth season, which comes to a close on October 3, these final weeks will once again be devoted largely to youth. Forty thousand high-school pupils will travel to Stratford by bus, train and private car to see 18 special performances of "King Lear" and "Richard II".

For many, this will be their first contact with live theatre. Coming from all parts of Ontario and Quebec, and from points in Michigan, Ohio and New York, the youngsters will see the plays at prices considerably below the normal box-office level.

The special matinees were introduced into the Festival's programme in 1958. The overwhelming response is evident in the increased attendance - from 12,000 the first year to some 30,000 last season - and the demand for more performances. Over the past six seasons, "Henry IV, Part One", "As You Like It", "Romeo and Juliet", "Henry VIII", "Macbeth", "The Tempest", "Troilus and Cressida", "The Comedy of Errors" and Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac" have been presented in the student matinee plan.

A WEEK ADDED

This year, the Festival has extended its season by one week, to 16, to allow for three weeks of student performances instead of the usual two. The plays will alternate during this period. "King Lear" was directed by Michael Langham, with John Colicos in the title role. Its principal

players also include Frances Hyland, Diana Maddox, Martha Henry, Douglas Rain, Bruno Gerussi, Mervyn Blake and Hugh Webster.

"Richard II" was directed by Stuart Burge. William Hutt has the title role, with Leo Ciceri as the usurper, Henry Bolingbroke. Others in the cast include Eric House, Tony van Bridge, Patrick Boxill, Amelia Hall and Jackie Burroughs.

Of the total number of students expected during the next three weeks, 10,365 will represent the Toronto area, while 1,274 will attend from Kitchener-Waterloo and 2,484 from Hamilton and Burlington. Another 2,113 will arrive from Michigan and 2,798 from New York State. Other cities represented include London, Windsor, Sarnia, Belleville, Peterborough, Montreal and Niagra Falls, Ontario. Fifty-two students from the Ontario School for the Blind in Brantford will attend a performance of "King Lear" on September 14. For the September 26 performance of "Richard II", 41 students will travel to Stratford from Edgewood High School in Pittsburg, Pa.

The highlight of the students' visit is the informal question-answer period at the conclusion of each performance. A leading member of the cast, stepping out of character, will comment on the play, explain some of the unusual aspects of the theatre itself and then answer questions from the student audience.

Many of the student groups have financed their own trips to Stratford. To those coming from long distances this often means hard work and sacrifice. One school ordered 25 tickets this season for its honour students. The teachers were a little confused when the results showed there were 26 honour students and that an extra ticket had to be procured.

NEW FAMILY AIR RATES

On October 25, Air Canada will introduce economy class family fares on its North American routes, thus providing new low-cost air-travel opportunities to families travelling together for business or pleasure. The head of the family (husband or wife) will pay the normal economy fare, while all other members 12 years of age and over will pay only 75 per cent of the regular fare. Children between the ages of two and 11 will travel at half the normal fare, and infants accompanied by an adult member of the family will be carried free.

The new family fares will apply without restriction the year around, every day of the week, on all Air Canada's North American routes.

Families will be able to travel on the airline's DC-8 jets and turbo-prop Vickers "Vanguards" and "Viscounts" to more than 40 communities across Canada, and to six major United States centres at the new low rates.

The new fares will provide an unequalled opportunity for more families to take to the air for holidays or to visit relatives. They will also enable

wives to accompany their husbands on business trips or to attend meetings and conventions at the lowest possible cost.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Air Canada provides many special features for family travel, including boarding assistance for mothers with infants, "skycots" for babies on DC-8 jet aircraft, a choice of baby foods and baby comfort supplies, reading material for the whole family, special complimentary meals for children, and, of course, complimentary meals for adults.

Typical of the new roundtrip economy-class family fares to be introduced on October are:

Between Vancouver and Winnipeg or Montreal and Winnipeg - \$220.50, a saving of \$31.50; Toronto and New York - \$98, a saving of \$14; Toronto and Halifax - \$168, a saving of \$24; Toronto and Vancouver - \$381.50, a saving of \$54.50; Montreal and Vancouver - \$420, a saving of \$60; Montreal and New York - \$87.50, a saving of \$12.50.

The 25 percent reduction in fares for family members travelling together will also apply to first-class accommodation on all Air Canada's North American services.