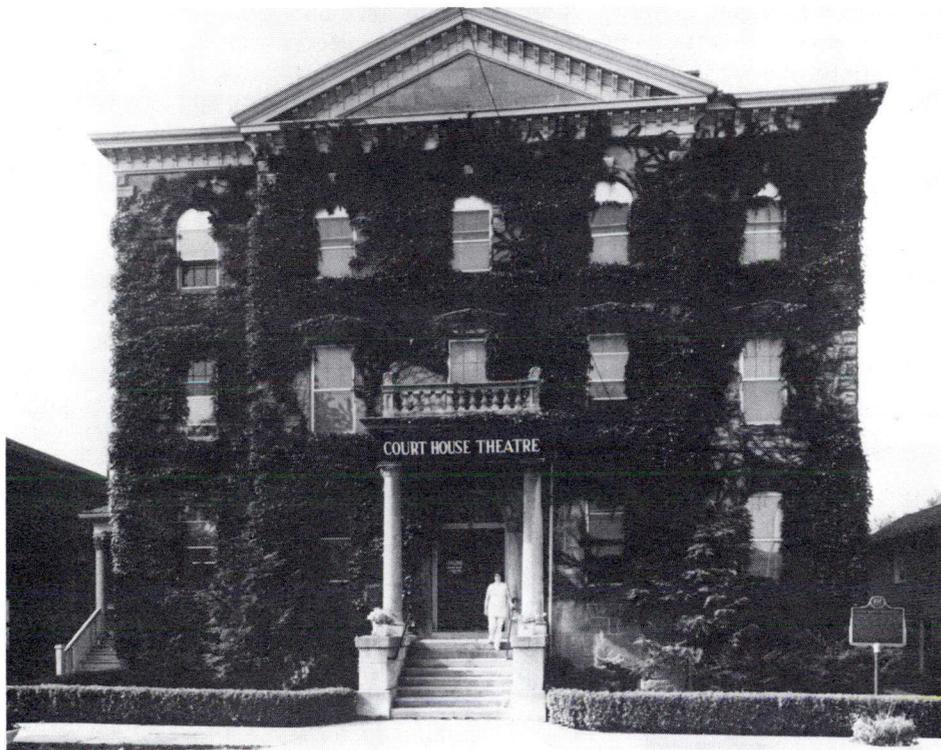


News of the arts



Fifteen years ago, ten actors – unpaid – performed the scene “Don Juan in Hell” from George Bernard Shaw’s *Man and Superman* before some 200 people in the little Court House Theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. On July 17, the Shaw company staged the North American première of the entire play *Man and Superman*, at the Shaw Festival Theatre. The cast includes Tony Van Bridge, who also directed the play, Ian Richardson and Carole Shelley. Shaw’s *Great Catherine* and *Widowers’ Houses* are being presented at the Court House Theatre this summer.

Victory for underground art

The Toronto Transit Commission’s program to incorporate arts works into the design of its new Spadina subway stations is going ahead after a year-long public controversy. Eight of the nine works of art originally proposed for the stations have already been approved for commission.

The Subway Art Program was suspended about a year ago in response to public concern over the large sum of money to be spent on the art at a time of severe cutbacks in Metro Toronto’s budget and sharp increases in TTC fares. Shortly afterwards, the TTC rescued the program with a new financing scheme. Instead of drawing the nearly \$600,000 needed to pay for the art from public funds, the TTC launched a fund-raising campaign to secure the money from private sources. The campaign was backed by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and Wintario promised to match any money

raised up to a total of \$175,000.

To date, the campaign has raised about \$150,000 which, with the matching Wintario grant, gives a total of close to \$300,000. This is enough for four of the nine commissions, and commitments have already been made on these.



Outside view of Joy, a multicoloured skylight at Glencairn station.

Exhibition of Chinese costumes prove popular

Toronto’s Royal Ontario Museum is holding over by popular demand its exhibition of Chinese costumes, *IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DRAGON THRONE*, until August 14. Since the exhibition’s opening on April 19, more than 80,000 visitors have clicked through the turnstiles to see this dazzling collection of 250 ceremonial robes of the Ch’ing period (1644-1911).

The exhibition, the culmination of five years’ research and two years’ intensive restoration work, shows how the affluent dressed in China over a period of several centuries.

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DRAGON THRONE has created a focus for many complementary activities involving the Chinese community of Toronto. The art of Tai Chi, a form of body movement considered to be both exercise and healing art, is being demonstrated by members of the Toronto Tai Chi Association on July 24 and on August 7. The Cantonese Music Club, which performs both classical and contemporary Chinese music, performed at the museum on July 10. Calligraphy, the Chinese art of beautiful written communication, was demonstrated by E. Yian Lee on July 19 and again on August 2.

Station skylight

The only one which has received approval is Rita Letendre’s *Joy*, a multi-coloured plexiglass skylight at the Glencairn station. The TTC has also approved four other works of art based on the assumption that money will continue to flow into the campaign’s coffers over the next several months. The commission has budgeted for the extra \$90,000 that will cover these last four pieces.

The only piece which has been dropped, at least for the time being, is a \$99,000 neon light sculpture by Michael Hayden titled *Arc en Ciel*, originally proposed for the Yorkdale station. It is composed of 180 feet of neon tubing which is hooked into a computer to activate different colours and designs whenever a train passes through the station. The Commission will be able to install this sculpture at a later date, if the funds become available.