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FIVE CANADIAN PLAYWRIGHTS TOUR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs and the Guild of Canadian Playwrights, five playwrights will tour Australia and New Zealand from May 5 to 25 to introduce and promote English Canadian playwrighting.

Playwrights Carol Bolt, Chris Brookes, Erika Ritter, Sheldon Rosen and George Ryga will illustrate the diversity of the work being done in English speaking Canada through selected readings and general discussions. They will visit Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Wellington and possibly Auckland. Readings will be presented by the playwrights at professional theatres committed to new and original works such as Theatre 62 in Adelaide, Hoopla Theatre in Melbourne, Nimrod Theatre, Sydney and Downstage Theatre in Auckland. They will also hold discussions with organizations such as the Australian Writers' Guild, the Victorian Arts Council and, Playmarket, an agency for New Zealand playwrights.

In Canberra the Canadian playwrights will attend the Australian National Playwrights' Conference and, at the invitation of the Conference, Carol Bolt will participate as the Canadian representative. A reading by Australian actors of one of Carol Bolt's works will be staged at the conference and, during scheduled seminars and meetings she will discuss the state of Canadian playwrighting and its inherent problems.

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The Australian and New Zealand tour, organized by the Department and the Guild, follows the successful tour in Britain last year by playwrights Michael Cook, David Fennario, Ken Gass, Ken Mitchell and Rick Salutin and is part of the Department's programme to promote Canadian playwrighting abroad.

Background notes on each playwright and further information can be obtained by contacting:

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