

Touring Irish Troupe Builds Bridge Over Troubled Borders

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (Reuter) - From the Belfast Opera House to Irish village halls, a troupe of touring actors is trying to rebuild bridges on this deeply divided island.

The Field Day Theatre Company, the only group to be funded by arts councils north and south, was set up by Belfast Protestant actor Stephen Rea and Londonderry Catholic Playwright Brian Friel.

Every year it goes on tour, playing to packed houses across British-ruled Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic with a string of thought-provoking plays.

Afterwards, Rural audiences earnestly examine the historical whys and wherefores of an island partitioned by Britain in 1921 and scene for the last 20 years of Northern Ireland's sectarian and political conflict.

Field day's latest offering was "making history" written by Friel, which examined the life of the late 15th century Irish chieftain Hugh O'Neill, educated at the court of Britain's Queen Elizabeth I and leader of a brief and ill-fated rebellion.

This Catholic chieftain with a Protestant wife has been hailed as a great Irish national hero. Friel's play examines how historians tend to re-arrange events to suit their own viewpoints.

On an Island where the past is an everyday reminder of deep divisions and the raison d'être for a conflict that

has killed almost 3,000 people, interpreting history is "the stuff of real life" as one critic put it.

Stephen Rea revels in the challenge of touring the island, playing in an opulent opera house one night, a ramshackle village hall with bad acoustics the next.

"People here are hungry for questions. They are living in an unresolved political situation. So they are interested in anything you do that might cast light," he told the Independent.

"In places like Carrickmore, people don't talk about Chekhovian styles. They say 'I knew that girl shouldn't have taken up with that Fella Vershinin. He's no good.' It is refreshing."

Friel, whose play "Translations" launched field day on the road to success in 1980, appreciates the hyper-critical and alert audiences across Ireland, north and south.

"These people watch you very carefully. They watch you almost as if we were cattle being paraded around on a fair day. They watch us with that kind of cool assessment. And they are listening."

"I think they hear things in theater because they haven't been indoctrinated in the way a metropolitan audience is," he said.

"Making History" played to 23,000 people in 21 different venues across Ireland and then to 5,000 people at full houses in London's national theater.

Administrator Maureen Loughran, reflecting on the company's success, said "It is the audiences at the one-night stands that are just fantastic. That is what makes it all worthwhile."

"People are delighted that you are there. They turn out in their hundreds," she told Reuters in an interview at the company's administrative headquarters in Londonderry, the picturesque walled city perched on the banks of the curving River Foyle.

Seventy percent of field day's 100,000 sterling budget comes in state funding from Belfast and Dublin. Finding other sponsors is a constant headache. "It hasn't taken off like it has in England. I find no companies with any spark. They are still blinkered," Loughran said.

She is quick to applaud Stephen Rea, whose successes stretch from the musical "high society" in the West End to some much meatier classical roles at London's National Theater.

"Stephen is very popular and a draw in himself. He has a great commitment to touring. He is also good at the 'Tea and Sandwiches Bit' with people after the show wherever we are."

Field day has also spread its wings to become a publishing company that invited writers like the Palestinian Academic Edward Said to contribute to a series of provocative pamphlets on colonialism.

Now it has embarked on an ambitious two-volume, six-million word anthology of Irish writing from the sixth century to the present day. Its editor and a field day director is the poet and literary critic Seamus Deane.

Two Americans, 3 Britons Awarded For Dissemination Of Knowledge

NEW YORK (UPI) - The Encyclopedia Britannica Wednesday honored its award of excellence in the dissemination of knowledge to two Americans and three Britons, including scientist Stephen Hawking who attacked the U.S. "Star Wars" program as a fraud.

American economist Paul Samuelson and diplomat-historian George Kennan, and British ethologist and chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall and art historian Sir Ernst Gombrich were the other winners.

The prestigious award, created four years ago, is given out each year to intellectuals who have demonstrated "acknowledged abilities in communicating knowledge and their thirst for the dissemination of learning," the encyclopedia's chairman, Robert Gwinn, said at the award ceremony.

The honorees received each a gold medal and a check for \$25,000. They are invited to deliver a "Britannica Lecture" at a university or forum of their choice.

Hawking, 47, who has been suffering from a debilitating and incurable neuromuscular disorder known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is known as the most brilliant theoretical physicist after Albert Einstein.

Hawking, who is confined to a wheelchair and speaks through a computer synthesizer, has spoken against former President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative program, the anti-missile shield popularly known as "Star Wars."

"Another step that would reduce the danger of war, would be to abandon SDI," he said. "This is a fraud, and a deliberate fraud at that."

Hawking said the ideal solution against the threat of a nuclear war is to dismantle all existing nuclear weapons.

"Being killed once is enough for most people," he said.

Samuelson, 74, a prize-winning economist who served under several U.S. presidents and whose books were translated into more than 30 languages, criticized Reagan for instituting the "most imprudent fiscal policies" in his eight-year presidency.

Kennan, 85, who promoted the policy of containment of Soviet expansion; that was followed by most Western governments since after World War II, declared that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership has put an end to the cold war.



"Aje Aje Bara Aje" directed by Im Kwon-taek is one of the films nominated for best picture in the 27th annual Grand Bell Awards, slated for Friday, the Korean equivalent to the Oscar Awards.

Five Films to Compete For Grand Bell Awards

Which film will win best picture of the Grand Bell Awards? Who will be best actor and actress?

These questions will be solved tonight. The 27th Golden Bell Awards, the Korean version of the Academy Awards, is almost certain to be held tonight despite internal feuds of the domestic film industry.

The executive committee for the Grand Bell Awards announced that a total of five films had been nominated at the preliminary competition.

They are "Second Sex," "Aje Aje Bara Aje," "Chilsu and Mansu," "The Rainbow in Seoul" and "In the Name of Memories."

"Second Sex," starring Lee Hye-young and Im Song-min as a couple, depicts the general conflicts of husbands and wives in modern Korean society in a bid to find the solution to such family feuds.

"Aje Aje Bara Aje," starring top star Kang Su-yon as a Buddhist nun, deals with the religious agony and emancipation of "phiguni" (Buddhist nuns). Ms. Kang won the best actress award at the Venice Film Festival in 1987 by starring in "Sibazi" (Surrogate Womb) directed by Im Kwon-taek, who also made

"Chilsu and Mansu," a film version of the box-office play of the same name, tries to illuminate the dark side of cold-hearted society shown through the eyes of two youngsters familiarly named Chilsu (Park Jung-hun) and Mansu (Ahn Sung-gi).

"The Rainbow in Seoul," starring rookie Kang Rina, tells the story of a fashion model in high social circles for a direct look at the political wrongdoings of the previous administrations. The production company, Kuk Dong Screen Co. got involved in boisterous arguments against its judgment after Ryu Dong-hun, head of the Motion Picture Association of Korea, remarked,

"The film industry will be hurled into big chaos unless 'The Rainbow in Seoul' is awarded best picture."

"In the Name of Memories," starring Lee Dok-hwa and rookie Kim Jae-mi residing in the United States, describes the love and hatred of a woman who marries an insane millionaire.

Among those nominated for best actor, Im Song-min of "Second Sex" and Lee Dok-hwa of "In the Name of Memories" are expected to race neck-and-neck for Golden Bells along with four-time awarded Ahn Sung-gi of "Chilsu and Mansu."

Ban on Japan Films Reiterated

The government Wednesday clarified that it would stick to its ban on Japanese popular arts' access to the domestic market for the time being.

In a letter to the Korean Entertainment Association, the Culture-Information Ministry stated that the basic policy will remain unchanged because it is too early for the government to lift the ban on Japanese popular music and movies.

"Japanese popular cultural will be allowed into Korea only when the general sentiment here is ripe enough to accommodate it. We will listen to a wide range of opinions before making a decision on this matter," reads the ministry's letter.

The letter was a form of reply to the entertainment association which voice strong opposition to the influx of Japanese movies and songs in a recent statement.

Early this year, the Sankei, Shim-bun, a Japanese economic daily, reported that Korean President Roh Tae-woo had implied a lifting the embargo.

The story was quieted by domestic newspapers under bold headlines.

Consequently, controversy has been rising again over the issue of Japanese cinema imports because national anti-pathology to Japan, which ruled Korea for over 35 years, still persists in every corner of the society.

Several conservative organizations have expressed strong opposition to

THE WORD FOR TODAY

CAPACITY ... "Ability to receive, contain or absorb; the maximum contained." The miracle of the human heart is its capacity to be occupied by the Holy Spirit of God.

Berlin Festival Films Show Taboo-Breaking in East, West

WEST BERLIN, (Reuter) - Film makers in East and West are breaking taboos, as a Soviet documentary on Stalin prison camps and American films on rape and racism showed at this year's West Berlin's festival.

The 12-day festival of 650 films, one of the industry's top showcases, ended Wednesday.

Soviet directors, blossoming under Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's drive to open society, offered "The Power of Solovki," a haunting documentary about dictator Josef Stalin's prison camps and "The Servant," an allegorical feature about Gorbachev's reform policies.

Scriptwriter Viktor Listov had wanted to make the prison documentary since 1982, when he discovered archive material on the notorious Solovki Island camp shot in the 1920s. Hundreds died on Solovki before it was closed in 1939 as Stalin expanded the Gulag Camp network eastward.

"In 1982 we couldn't even think of actually making such a film," documentary director Marina Goldovskaya said. But Gorbachev's glasnost (openness) changed all that, she added.

The 11-strong jury gave a special prize to Vadim Abdrashitov's "The servant," describing it as a movie "which opens new perspectives in cinematographic art."

"Evening Bells," a Chinese film about the last days of the Japanese occupation, also took a special prize.

Bulgaria brought its own memories

of terror in Sofia in the early 1950s with director Ivan Nitschev's "Ivan and Alexandra."

Czechoslovak Dusan Hanak won the festival's best director award with "I Love, You Love," a tragi-comedy he shot in 1980 which had remained on the censor's shelves until now.

Even East Berlin, which brooks no glasnost, contributed a raucous look at East German youth culture in "Whispers and Outcry: A Rock Report."

While the strength of the East European entries impressed the festival judges, the U.S. film industry also came to West Berlin in force.

Hollywood offered "The Accused," a disturbing film on rape which has earned Jodie Foster as Oscar nomination as best actress.

Old Chinese Vase Stolen

BOSTON (AP) - A rare 14th century Yuan Dynasty vase has been plucked from its glass display case in the Museum of Fine Arts, officials said Wednesday.

FBI and Boston police investigators began searching for clues to the disappearance of the blue-and-white porcelain vase after it was reported missing Tuesday morning by a security officer, said detective Sgt. Paul Crossen.

There was evidence of tampering with the glass case in which the decorative vase had been displayed, said Crossen, who declined to provide further details.

TOWN CRIER

EXHIBITION

EIGHT SCULPTORS present their works at Gallery Seomi (546-9740) Feb. 16-March 2.

FIVE WESTERN PAINTERS' show at Chongjak Gallery (549-3112) Feb. 17-March 3.

MODERN GRAPHICS of West and East Germans at Walker Hill Art Center Feb. 8-March 8.

PARK SOO-RYONG'S oils at Shinegye Department's, Living Center Feb. 21-26.

OILS YU BYONG-YOP at Hyundai Gallery (549-6880) Feb. 13-28.

Back Mi-hae's one-person show at Space Gallery near Hyundai Building in downtown Seoul Feb. 20-March 3.

Chang Sang-ui's solo show at Fine Arts Center Feb. 24-March.

The late Lee Ung-no's ceramic paintings at Gana Gallery (734-4093) Feb. 18-26.

Chong Jin-young's oils at Lotte Department Store Feb. 22-27.

Ryu Bong-hyun's oils at Kwanhoon Gallery Feb. 22-28.

Kim U-hahn's first one man show at Third Gallery (735-4151) Feb. 22-28.

Kim Byung-jong's first solo show at Dongduk Gallery (734-8123) Feb. 24-March 2.

Choi Boon-ja's "Trees and Mountains" paintings at Sun Art Gallery Feb. 23-March 3.

Hong Song-ik's "National Wish" paintings at Lotte Department Store in Chamsil Feb. 22-March 6.

Yu Yong-hwan's sculpture at Baik Song Art Gallery (740-5824) Feb. 22-28.

"Ceramics-inspiration through the experience" by eight sculptors at Chungnam Gallery (732-7123) March 1-March 7. "Artist of the Month, Park Kyung-ran" at National Museum of Contemporary March 1-31.

Ha Sang-rim's paintings at Gallery Soo (733-5010) Feb. 28-March 6.

Kim Sang-il's sculpture at Total Gallery (762-3623) Feb. 24-March 2.

Photo exhibition of "Four Season in Europe" by Kim Young-cun at Puji Photo Salon (266-5805).

CONCERT

VERDI'S "RIGOLETTO" produced by the National Opera Company at 7 p.m. Feb. 23-28 at National Theater main hall (274-1151/9). Korea Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Hong Yun-taek will accompany the opera, and Nah Yong-su will conduct National Chorus Company.

HUNGARIAN VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'S performances at Sejong Cultural Center main hall at 7 p.m. Feb. 26-27 conducted by Korea-born Yu Chong based in the U.S. Program: Bartok's Rumanian Folk Dance, Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," Bach's Violin Concerto in E Major, Barber's Adagio for Strings and Rozsa's Concerto for String Orchestra on Feb. 26. Leo Weiner's Divertimento No. 1, Haydn's Cello Concerto, Puccini's Crisante and Tchaikovsky's Serenade on Feb. 27.

CHONJU CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S concert at Seoul Arts Center concert hall (580-1114) at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 under the baton of Yu Yong-su. Program: Rossini's Overture to "II Barbiere di Siviglia," Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 "Emperor" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Soloist will be pianist Lee Kyung-sook.

CHONGJU PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S concert at Seoul Arts Center concert hall (580-1114) at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25 under the baton of Kim Pyong-gyu. Program: D. Sibelius' Symphonic Poem "Finlandia," Haydn's Cello Concerto and Bizet's Suite "L'Arlesienne." Soloist will be cellist Lee Dong-oo.

KAZUHIITO YAMASHITA'S guitar recital at Sejong Cultural Center main hall on Feb. 28. Program: Sor's Introduction, Bach's Sonata No. 3, Tarrega's "Recuerdos de la Alhambra," Granados' "Tonadilla" and Dvorak's "New World" Symphony.

EVENING OF BACH by Tokyo-based flutist Kim Chang-kook at Munye Theater main hall at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26. Violinist Kim Min, gambalist Chae Mun-gyong, cellist Yun Mi-gyong and flutist Song Yong-ji will make guest appearance.

CINEMA

"MOON WALKER" at Myongbo Theater (274-2121) and Myongbo Art Hall (732-2131).

"NO WAY OUT" at Korea Theater (778-8361).

"THE LAST EMPEROR," a great epic on China by Bernardo Bertolucci, Daeha Theater (278-8171-5).

"MOSCOW DOES NOT BELIEVE IN

TEARS," a Soviet film by Vladimir Manshovich, Chungang Theater (776-8866).

"THE LIE," an Italian film by Giovanni Soldati, Hollywood Theater (742-1481).

"DIE HARD" at Dansongsa Theater (764-3745).

"THE SALSA" at Myongdong Theater (332-5107).

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT SEUL (754-9831) will show three films directed by Hans-Jurgen Syberberg: "Ludwig II" on Feb. 23, "Winfried Wagner" on Feb. 24 and "Parsifal" on 25.

DRAMA

"AUDIENCE INSULT," written by Peter Handke, will be staged by the 76 Company at Sinsun Theater (312-7959), Sinchon, Feb. 15-March 31, at 4 and 7 p.m.

"NUTS," a play written by Tom Toper, will be staged by the Rodem Company as its debut performance at Batangol Theater, Taehangno, Feb. 15-March 14, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

"HUSH, HUSH, HUSH!" written by Lee Hyon-hwa, will be performed by the Root group (743-3675) under the direction of Kim Do-hun at Munye Theater. Feb. 15-28, at 4 and 7 p.m.

"DUET FOR ONE," written by Tom Kempinsky, directed by Song Mi-suk, Yun Sok-hwa and Choi Chong-won in the leads, the Sanullim (34-5915), performance extended to March 26, at 7 p.m.

"TOUCH AND GO," comedy written by British playwright Derek Benfield, will be performed by London's West End stars at the Hotel Inter-Continental Seoul, slated for March 2-4. Cocktails and dinners are available before performance. For more information call 553-8181.

"LIKE WIND, LIKE RIVER," a musical drama for youths performed by Minjung Group at Hyundai Taot Hall (552-2233) from Feb. 10 to March 4 at 4 and 7 p.m.

"LE PIEGE POUR UN HOMME SEUL," a detective story written by Robert Thomas, dramatized by Kim Ho-tae, at Madang Cecil Theater (737-5773), slated for Feb. 1-28 at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

"I LOVE SUN-AE," an experimental comedy based on "Yi Su-il and Shim Sun-ae" in a bid to remove genres of performance arts. Performed by Yeonmudae at Theater Space (763-0771) from Feb. 7 to March 7 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.