

Director returning to Stratford after 9 years

Michael Langham will return to Stratford in 1979 for his first festival production in nine years, artistic director Robin Phillips has announced. Langham will direct Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" on the festival stage. A former artistic director of the Stratford Festival and of the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, the director is at present staging productions of "Coriolanus" and "Julius Caesar" with a black acting company for Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival.

These will be the first productions mounted by the new repertory company and they are scheduled to open later this year. Langham's 12-year tenure as head of

the Stratford Festival included many outstanding productions of Shakespeare and other works of classic theater and he was particularly lauded for his most recent Stratford offering, the 1970 production of Sheridan's "School for Scandal."

The new "Love's Labour's Lost" will provide a fresh look at the play, directed by Langham in 1961 in a production that has remained one of the highlights of the Stratford Festival's history.

PETER MOSS, the festival's director-third stage, will direct "The First Part of Henry IV" to be presented at the Festival Theatre. Moss was the director of "The Merry Wives of Wind-

sor" and co-director of "The Winter's Tale" this year, in addition to his work at the Third Stage which included the direction of Sheldon Rosen's "West and Jack" and Beckett's "From An Abandoned Work."

Tony Award winner Burt Shavelove, in his first association with the festival, will direct the world premiere of his own musical adaptation of the Philip Barry play, "Holiday."

The production will be presented on the Avon stage. This new version of Barry's popular comedy will include previously little-known songs by Cole Porter, gleaned from other musicals and revues. Co-librettist of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,"

which brought him the Tony Award, Shavelove is known for such Broadway musicals as "No, No, Nanette," which he also staged in a West End production. More recently, he both adapted and directed "The Frogs" (with music by Stephen Sondheim), at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven and he has directed many television specials featuring such acclaimed performers as Art Carney, Judy Garland and Victor Borge.

ANOTHER CELEBRATED newcomer to the festival will be Warren Husseln, who will direct "Oleanna" which will be presented on the festival stage.

Husseln has worked extensively in film and television in England and, in recent years, has directed as well for the stage.

His most recent assignments include Julian Mitchell's "Half Life," with John Gielgud, for the National Theatre and the West End, and shortly to tour in North America.

Prior to coming to Stratford, he will direct Joan Plowright, Eileen Atkins and Margaret Tyzack in a West End production of a new play from Paris called "Thursday's Woman."

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Produced and staged by touring Company 79, a Theatre of the Arts company, the performances will be

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at 4 and 7 p.m. and on Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m.

Starring in the title roles are Paul D. Maisano of Southfield as Hansel and Valerie McKinna of Madison Heights as Gretel. The witch is portrayed by Detroit David Cowles.

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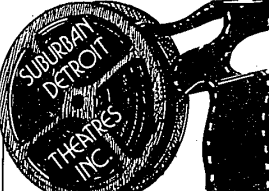
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