BY HUGH GALLAGEMS BY HUGH GALLA

architecture. Check out the city hall and the Perth County Courthouse as other fine examples of civic architecture.

The town is also notable for its beautiful perk system. The length of the Avon River is a green belt leading to the impresive tent-like Festivel Theater. Along the park, joggers, bikers, couples and exhibiting artists share space happily.

Nearby St. Marys is another excellent place for architecture buffs. The fortress like Opera House is no longer used for its original purpose as a 1,000 seat auditorium, but the exterior has been beautifully restored in all is unique sphendor. St. Marys distinctive townhall was brilt of limestone and has a romane-

GREAT ESCAPES

Send or fax information for Great Escapes to: Keely Wygonik, Arts & Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspa-pers, Inc., 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (313) 191-

* Troy Marriott Hotel
Gold Retreat Weekend, \$90
per person package for two
includes a Troy Marriott deluxe
guest room on Friday or Saturday night, use of the hotel's
indoor pool and health club,
cover charge for Kick's Entertainment Lounge, plus two 18hole rounds of golf with cart at
Pline Trace in Rochester Hills or
Chorry Creek in Shelby Township. Call 1-6800 777-4098 for
information/reservations.

*ALL ABOARD TRAVEL
Join Chef Larry Janes on
Costa Cruises' new flagship the
MS Costa Victoria for a cruise
designed for gournets who enloy
great tasting, low-fat foods. All
Aboard Travel has organized the
complete package, white
includes cooking demonstrations,
cruise, meals, entertainment apurts of call. Fifty cabins have
been set aside for the March 30,
1997 sailing at \$846 per person,
based on double occupancy, for
an outside ocean view cabin.
Port taxes are \$121 per person,
nir travel from Detroit (round
trip) was \$329 at the time of this
release. Call (313) 561-3322 for a
descriptive brochure.

Gourmet Dining

1-800-999-6343

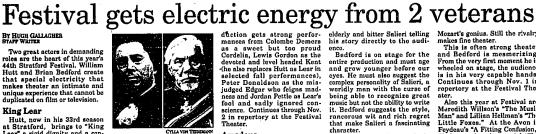
Two great actors in demanding roles are the heart of this year's 44th Stratford Festival. William Hutt and Brian Bedford create that special electricity that makes theater an intimate and unique experience that cannot be duplicated on film or television.

King Lear

suppacated on Him or tolevision.

King Lear
Hutt, now in his 33rd season at Stratford, brings to "King Lear" a rigid dignity and a controlled cadence that disintegrates as Lear drifts into modness and shame.

"Lear" is Shakespeare's unflinching look at growing old and the conflicts it creates between generations. Often hailed as Shakespeare's greatest play, "Lear" has multiple layers of meaning and insight and a rich variety of flawed characters. Hut has played the role twice before at Stratford, but he is now of Lear's age and this gives special poignancy to his performance. Few actors speak Shakespeare's language with such a procise sense of meaning and few perform Lear with such early strength and power. Hut starts at a higher point to make his fall that much more spectature. Stratford artistic director Richard Monett's production is clear and straightforward, despite the Edwardian contumes. It is pared in such a way as to put emphasis on Lear and his



Masters: Brian Bedford (left) and William Hutt deliver strong performances at Stratford.

attempts to understand what is real and what isn't. This is not an emotionally raging produc-tion as is often the approach to Lear's mad scenes. This is a play about family relationships and a quieter madness. In addition to Hutt, this pro-

diction gets strong performances from Colombe Demers as a sweet but too proud Cordelia, Lewis Gordon as the devoted and level headed Kent the also replaces Hutt as Lear in selected fall performances), Peter Donaldson as the minudged Edgar who feigns madness and Jordan Pettle as Lear's fool and sadly ignored conscience. Continues through Nov. 2 in repertory at the Festival Theater.

Amadeus

Brian Bedford is an actor's actor, aman with a superb command of overy acting trick. He is able to use them all as the troubled Antonio Salieri in Peter Thins is a welcome return of last year's Stratford production of this popular it overly glib historical drama. Salieri was a court composer to Empero Joseph II of Austria. He may or may not have poisoned Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Shaffer's play is a genius with surface and entablity of a rude little boy. Stephen with the surface and entablity of a rude little boy. Stephen and eligible that made Hules seem like a naughty boy in the film of this popular it overly glib historical drama. Salieri a was a stronger adversary sepecially one may not have poisoned Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The film has a scene not in the play that suggests something of

elderly and bitter Salieri telling his story directly to the audience.

Bedford is on stage for the entire production and must age and grow younger before our eyes. He must also suggest the complex personality of Salieri, a worldly man with the curse of being able to recognize great music but not the ability to write it. Bedford suggests the style, rancorous wit and rich regret that make Salieri a fascinating character.

His nemesis is Mozart, who is Shaffer's play is a genius with the manners and mentality of a rude little boy. Stephen Ouimette has neither Tom Hulee's babyface or the hysterical giggle that made Huleo seem like a naughty boy in the film version. Ouimette is more a foul-mouthed and arrogant tenager, which in some ways makes him a stronger adversary especially when he argues his positions on music.

The film has a scene not in the play that suggests something of the film of Feetival Box Office, P.O. Box 520, Stratford,Ontario, Canada N5A 6V2.



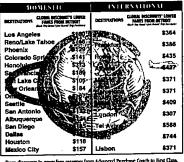












FrL9:30AM-9PM; Sat. 11AM-8PM; Sun. 9:30AM-8PM





