

# Canada's 'thinker' - Northrop Frye Entertainment Outlook

"I don't think there are any answers. I think the answer cheats you out of the right to ask the question."

That is one of the provocative comments that have made Northrop Frye one of the most quoted of 20th-century "thinkers."

Individuals are described in many ways, but few are labelled as a "thinker." Yet, Frye, who rose from a difficult boyhood in New Brunswick to the pinnacle of academia, has worn that label for

"This film makes for a remarkable seasonal special because it is a film that embraces great universal spiritual values. It is for all ages."

Frye, said Rasky, "challenges out set ideas. It is perfect viewing for a Christmas night when he want uninterrupted warmth and wisdom."

The film includes scenes of Frye teaching. He is chancellor of Victoria College at the University of Toronto.

It's almost Christmas, bring on the circus!

Both CTV and CBC must associate the Christmas season with circuses.

CTV offers the 14th annual Circus of the Stars on Dec. 23. Stacy Keach, Barbara Mandrell and Leslie Nielsen are the ringmasters.

Among the acts, Doug Barr (Designing Women) ventures into a cage already occupied by 11 tigers, Julie McCullough (Growing Pains) and Allan Kayser (Mama's Family) walk on stilts on the high wire and Rebecca Arthur (Perfect Strangers) joins Moscow Circus veteran Yuri Alexandrov for an aerial ballet.

The CBC offering is The Big Top, one of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's most popular productions. The show, first telecast last Christmas, is choreographed by Jacques Lamay. It follows a young girl (Leslie Fields) as she sneaks away

to a glittering world of exotic animals and mysterious people - the circus.

It will be televised Dec. 21.

As hostess of the Wheel of Fortune game show, Vanna White gets to spend a lot of time posing in new outfits, but has few lines.

For part of the Goddess of Love, a movie that airs on CTV Dec. 30, it looks like Vanna has the same scriptwriter. She gets to play a statue in this comedy. But, the statue does come to life. If you are a Roman goddess (she portrays Venus, the goddess of beauty and love), strange things can happen.

Venus is sent to Earth by her father, Zeus, because she appears incapable of love. Once on Earth, in the form of a statue, she is stolen by thieves. But a young man (David Naughton), who wants to display the ring he has just bought for his beloved, makes a mistake. He slips the ring onto the statue's finger. Venus comes alive and later explains to the shocked young man that the ring means he is to be her true love. He tries, but fails, to get the ring off her finger. The comedy of errors continues with the thieves trying to get their "statue" back.

## Face In The Crowd



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**Bob Spence**  
Entertainment  
Thomson News Service

many years. Thirty-five universities have awarded him honorary degrees.

Frye, who has taught classes at more than 100 universities, is the author of a number of books of literary criticism and is a leading authority on the Bible and literature.

Producer/director Harry Rasky delves into the thoughts of this noted Canadian - The Great Teacher: Northrop Frye - Christmas night on CBC-TV.

And Rasky believes the timing is superb.

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