

# Entertainment & Arts Holiday TV fare mixed

By BOB SPENCE

Thomson News Service

Just what you needed to get your mind off Christmas - a one-hour CBC-TV special on the goods and services tax.

Staff members from Market Place, CBC's consumer information show, and Venture, the network's weekly business program, are pooling their resources for the special, GST...And You, which airs at 9 p.m., Dec. 18.

The producers want to shovel past the political rhetoric to examine the controversial tax from two perspectives: that of the people who will collect the tax and that of those who will pay it.

CTV invites you to join the party when Dolly Parton goes home for Christmas in the Smoky Mountains.

Parton returns to the Tennessee home where she was raised to sing Christmas carols and reminisce with her family. The highlight of the special is Parton joining the congregation and choir of a small country church for a swinging musical Christmas celebration.



**Bob Spence**  
Entertainment  
Thomson News  
Service

Dolly Parton: Christmas at Home airs at 10 p.m. (ET), Dec. 17.

CBC has a children's Christmas special about a boy who has to make a wrenching decision.

It's a haunting tale about a Canadian choirboy at an English cathedral school who becomes friend with the ghost of a Welsh choirboy - a ghost who has been flitting about the cathedral for four centuries.

Twelve-year-old David Fabry (played by Nathaniel Moreau) is sent to the English school after

his parents separate. Lonely and homesick, he is befriended by the ghost (Jean-Marc Perret). Between practices for the Christmas carol service, David and the ghost plot to reunite David's parents.

It becomes crucial for David to sing the solo at this service. Then, the ghost reveals that the only way he can free his spirit from the cathedral is if he sings that solo.

Haunting Harmony airs at 7 p.m., Dec. 22, on CBC.

A drama based on the characters from The Babysitters Club, a series of novels popular among pre-teen and teenage girls, airs this month on Family Channel.

Dawn and the Haunted House revolves around a mysterious woman and an old house. The girls believe the woman is holding one of the club members prisoner.

They learn that first impressions can be way off base.

The 30-minute youth drama airs at 7 p.m. (ET) on Dec. 22.

## Stratford plans for next season

David William, Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival, announced at a news conference at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto the outstanding company of directors, designers, composers and actors that has been assembled to present the four major productions on the Festival Theatre stage for his 1991 season. The thirty-ninth season will feature an ensemble of highly acclaimed artists and technicians that is unsurpassed on the continent.

The season opens Monday, May 27, 1991, in the Festival Theatre with William Shakespeare's most famous tragedy - Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, directed by David William and designed by Debra Hanson. The music will be composed by Louis Applebaum with lighting design by Harry Fehner.

Colm Feore will play Hamlet and Leon Pownall will play Claudius with Edward Atienza as Polonius, Sidonie Boll as Ophelia, and Bradley C. Rudy as Laertes.

Hamlet begins preview performances Saturday, May 4, 1991, and plays until Sunday, November 10, 1991.

On Wednesday, May 29, 1991, Shakespeare's comedy featuring the merry battle of wits between Beatrice and Benedick, Much

Ado About Nothing, directed by Richard Monette, opens at the Festival Theatre. It will be designed by Robin Fraser Paye, with music composed by Alan Laing, and lighting design by Louise Guinand.

Colm Feore and Goldie Semple will play Benedick and Beatrice with Brian Bedford as Dogberry, Sidonie Boll as Hero, Nicholas Pennell as Leonato, and Leon Pownall as Don Pedro.

Much Ado About Nothing starts previewing Tuesday, April 30, 1991, and will run until Friday, November 8, 1991.

Friday, May 31, 1991, see Rogers and Hammerstein's romantic musical, Carousel, which is based on Ferenc Molnar's fantasy play 'Liliom' featuring the carnival barker Billy Bigelow, open at the Festival Theatre. It will be directed and choreographed by Brian Macdonald with sets designed by Neil Peter Jampolis and costumes designed by Christina Podubiuk. Musical direction will be by Berthold Carriere, lighting design by Michael J. Whitfield and consulting direction and choreography by Anne Wooten.

John Devorski will play Billy

Bigelow and Allison Grant will play Julie Jordan with Marsha Bagwell as Nettie Fowler, Kate Henning as Mrs. Mullin and Martin Spencer as Enoch Snow.

Carousel will commence previews Monday, April 29, 1991, and play until Saturday, November 9, 1991.

The beginning of August features the Festival's mid-season openers. Thursday, August 1, 1991, a classic adventure story for the whole family, Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island, newly adapted by Elliott Hayes, will open in the Festival Theatre. It will be directed by David William and designed by Debra Hanson with music by Alan Laing and lighting design by John Munro.

The cast of Treasure Island will feature Edward Atienza as Ben Gunn and Blind Pew, Geoffrey Brumlik as Jim Hawkins, Lorne Kennedy as Dr. Livesey, Rod Menzies as Captain Smollett, Leon Pownall as Long John Silver, and John Franklyn-Robbins as Squire Trelawney.

Treasure Island starts preview performances on Saturday, July 27, 1991 and runs until Saturday, November 9, 1991.

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**CINEMA 3** **NOW PLAYING**

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Evenings at 7:00 & 9:15 p.m.  
Matinees Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

## Arts Council comments

TORONTO - Nalini Stewart, Chair of the Ontario Arts Council, made the following statement in response to the government's Speech from the Throne released on November 20, 1990:

"The Ontario Arts Council is pleased that the Speech from the Throne acknowledges the vital contribution made by artists and arts organizations to the life of the province. We are encouraged that this government recognizes the arts community as one of its economic partners, and as a sector that has much to add to the quality of life for all Ontarians. Even more significant, is its understanding that the arts community is in critical need of enhanced financial support through funding to the Ontario Arts Council."

Norman B. Walford, Executive Director of the Ontario Arts Council added the following comments:

"The Speech from the Throne identifies many issues which are close to the heart of our organization. For years, artists have been one of the groups 'outside of the established power structures' and today, artists are among those made particularly vulnerable by the current economic decline.

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