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High drama in monastic square

AFTER a lapse of 11 years an open-air stage is being erected in the great monastery square at Einsiedeln this month for a re-creation of one of the most celebrated of all spiritual dramas, "The Great Theatre of the World" — just 300 years after the death of its author, Spanish dramatist Don Pedro Calderon de la Barca.

The two-hour play, in which hundreds of Einsiedeln citizens take part, will be performed twice a week from June 20 to September 5. Performances start at 9.30pm.

Calderon considered the

play his most important work. In it he sees the world as a stage on which mankind plays out its role in the presence of God. First printed in 1675, it was translated into German in 1846. The first production at Einsiedeln was in 1924, when Peter Erkelenz revived the tradition of large-scale theatre which goes back to Baroque times.

So successful was it that

the production was repeated the following year and provided a unique religious experience for 30,000 spectators. It was then decided to produce it every five years.

After the war it was produced with renewed lustre in 1950, when 500 citizens took part in a spectacular presentation, played against the splendid facade of the monastery,

which was transformed into a symphony of colour, movement and light.

It was last performed in 1970. Its return this month, in a bigger production than ever, is due to the dedication of actor Hans Gerd Kübel, who has taken over as artistic director and who, together with Dr Wolfgang Franke, has written a completely new translation of the play.

Specially for the senior citizen

SWITZERLAND is the ideal country for hobby holidays and, as there seems to be an increasing nostalgia for things old and beautiful steam engines and paddle steamers make more friends year by year.

To enable enthusiasts to include a few unusual items of special interest in their itinerary, the Swiss National Tourist Office has again published the booklet "Steam in Switzerland".

Special interest tours planned

Swiss Mule Safari: An unforgettable adventure on alpine trails from Haute-Nendaz to Grimentz (Valais) or vice-versa. Meeting point is Sion where the programme starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday. All-inclusive rate per person for accommodation in tourist-class hotels and country inns for six nights, all meals including wine, coffee and liqueur on the last day, hire of mule, services of a qualified guide muleteer and a hostess throughout, and insurance: Sfr. 765.-. Departures every week from 31 May to 5 July and from 9 August to 27 September.

Ride a Bike Round Lake Geneva: The tour begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday in Lausanne. The basic price starts from Sfr. 485.- for six nights bed and breakfast and includes the services of a guide for the entire tour, free admission to Chillon Castle, city sightseeing tour of Geneva, farewell dinner in Lausanne, bicycle hire for the five days and insurance. Until October 4.

Hiking in the Swiss Alps: The tour starts on Saturday and ends on Friday, hiking across the mountains above Sion (meeting point) from Vercorin (4,400 ft) to Haute-Nendaz (4,117 ft). The all-inclusive price per person is Sfr. 570.- for full board with accommodation for six nights in tourist-class hotels and country inns, bus transfers from and to Sion, daily transportation of luggage, service of a qualified guide, and insurance.

Dates: June 13-19, July 4-10, August 8-14, August 22-28, September 5-11, September 19-25 and October 3-9.

Tennis in the Alps: A weekly tennis package in Leysin is on offer until October 10 with

HOLIDAYS specially tailored for senior citizens, lasting 10 days during the months of June and October are being offered in Ascona. The prices start from Sfr. 388.- and include nine nights half board accommodation, free taxi from Locarno to Ascona on arrival, welcome

drink, local evening with entertainment, boat trip to the Brissago Island with its botanical garden, guided stroll through Ascona, possibilities of further excursions with hostess, etc.

Further information from the Official Tourist Office, 6612 Ascona, Switzerland.

prices starting at Sfr. 623.- per person including six nights half-board in a modern first-class hotel with its own indoor swimming pool, sauna, fitness room and massage, 15 hours of tennis lessons with a qualified trainer, five hours use of court for practice, unlimited use of the hotel's own indoor swimming pool, an outdoor swimming pool, minigolf and skating rink.

Further information and enrolment for all tours: Welcome Swiss Tours, Avenue Benjamin-Constant 7, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Painting and curling courses

SPECIAL courses in rustic painting are being held at Wildhaus (Upper Toggenburg) from July 12 to 17 and in oil and water colour painting from July 19 to 24, lasting from Mondays to Fridays, four hours daily. Cost Sfr. 100.- for each course.

An all-inclusive arrangement is available by a local hotel at Sfr. 460.- for six days half board and tuition.

Curling weeks are also on offer for beginners from August 2 to 7 and for the advanced from August 9 to 14 at a cost of Sfr. 520.-, including five nights half board.

Further information: Official Tourist Office, 9658 Wildhaus, Switzerland.

Weekly packages at Ascona

WEEKLY packages are again on offer in Ascona throughout the year with prices starting from Sfr. 225.- for bed and breakfast and from Sfr. 260.- for half board, including a booklet of vouchers worth Sfr. 50.- for drinks and various

reductions, and a souvenir.

Courses for tennis, sailing, wind surfing, water skiing, horse riding, flying, drawing, ancient paper making as well as rambling and golf are also available.

Ascona/Losone now has seven tennis clubs with a total of 28 tennis courts.

Further information: Official Tourist Office, 6612 Ascona, Switzerland.

Menuhin festival

THE 25th Yehudi Menuhin Festival, with famous soloists and orchestras will be taking place in Gstaad from August 4 to 30.

Further information: Official Tourist Office, 3780 Gstaad, Switzerland.

Hobby packages

WEEKLY packages are again available in Lugano until October with prices starting from Sfr. 160.- for bed and breakfast, Sfr. 230.- for half board and Sfr. 285.- for full board.

They can be combined with

hobby courses organised by the Club Intersport, including tennis, crossbow shooting, squash, horse-riding, judo, rambling, water skiing, windsurfing and sailing.

A brochure is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Engadine concert weeks

FROM July 14 until August 14 the 41st International Chamber Music Festival will be held in the Engadine resorts of Maloja, Sils, Silvaplana, St. Moritz, Pontresina, Celerina, Samedan, Chamues-ch, Zuoz and Bad Scuol.

Further details: Official Tourist Office, 7504 Pontresina, Switzerland.

International Jazz Festival

THE 15th International Jazz Festival will be held in Montreux from July 3 to 19.

Special inclusive arrangements are on offer including return air or coach travel from London to Geneva, transfers to Leysin, bed and breakfast accommodation in Leysin and free transportation nightly to the Montreux Festival concerts.

By air: seven days from £123 and 14 days from £174; by coach: seven days from £105 and 14 days from £157.

Further information and bookings: David Balfry Jazz Tours, 3 Market Street, Warwick, CV34 9DJ.

Events of the month

June 2-7	Geneva	Geneva youth musical
June 7	Locarno	Floral festival with procession
June 11-Oct 15	Fribourg	Musée d'art et d'histoire: PHOTO Fribourg 81, 3rd international photography triennial
June 12/13	Biel	23rd 100 km run
June 12-27	Lausanne	«Quinzaine de la rose»
June 13/14	Lausanne	Federal music festival
20/21		
June 15-July 15	Fribourg	500th anniversary of Canton Fribourg: Festival «Terre de lumière»
June 17-22	Basel	Muba: ART 12 '81, international art fair
June 23-25	Geneva	Palais des expositions: IMMM 81, international microcomputers, minicomputers and microprocessors
June 26-29	Buochs	50th anniversary of Buochs costume group. - 4th International costume rally
June 27/28	Fribourg	500th anniversary of Canton Fribourg: Official days
June 27-July 31	Rapperswil	International exhibition of tourism posters