



Yorkton: The rites of judging

by Patricia Thompson

The Yorkton Festival has a genuineness about it, a down-home, folksy, but knowing air. Like pioneers of old, the adjudicators trekked across Canada to participate in the rites of judging. For Zale Dalen, Les Wedman and Arvi Liimatainen coming from the west, and the writer from Toronto, it wasn't too arduous. But John Porteous arose in the darkness of a Moncton morning (much to the consternation of his dog who *knew* it wasn't time for a walk), and by early afternoon had only made it as far as Winnipeg. He had no difficulty in meeting the writer at the tiny Perimeter Airlines desk at Winnipeg airport - they were the only ones hanging around there. Some three hours later, the two-some tottered aboard a seven-seat prop plane piloted by Glenna Henderson (who's been flying commercially since 1976) and took off into a fabulous sunset.

It's not just a short film and video festival that the adjudicators go to in Yorkton - it's a barrage of hospitality, starting with flowers and fruit in the hotel rooms. Then, it's on to the Agriplex for a Civic Luncheon - only an hour because Mayor John and his aldermen have to get back to their jobs; it's a vast multicultural dinner of many courses, followed by speeches interspersed with

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GOLDEN SHEAF AWARDS

WHO WAS WHO at the 1982 YORKTON SHORT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

Pre-Selection Committee

BILL CHERRY - head of Cherry Film Productions Ltd. (Regina)
LARRY WAHL - AV Services, Regina Public Library
BRUCE EDWARDS - Writer/producer/director; reviewer CKCK-TV (Regina)
SANDRA BERNSTEIN - Program Director, Cablecom Corp. (Saskatoon) (now in Toronto)

Adjudicators

Film:
ZALE R. DALEN - Filmmaker (Skip Tracer, The Hounds of Notre Dame) (Vancouver)
ARVI LIIMATAINEN - Partner, and director/producer, Kicking Horse Productions (Edmonton)
PATRICIA THOMPSON - Editor, Canadian Film Digest Yearbook

Video:

JOHN PORTEOUS - Writer & novelist; CBC-Radio commentator; Globe and Mail correspondent (Moncton)
LES WEDMAN - Freelance critic/publicist; reviews/interviews for CHQM-Radio and TV.

entertainment that's still going strong well past midnight on a weekday; it's the Chamber of Commerce luncheon where a chance remark to the manager of the local Dairy Co-op resulted in the writer receiving three dozen assorted cartons of delicious Saskatchewan yoghurt.

The time spent viewing films with fellow adjudicators, Zale Dalen and Arvi Liimatainen, was enlivened by merry quip and jest, and Zale's intermission displays of pushups, martial arts outbursts, and harmonica playing, all gave the proceedings a certain aura of audacity!

An added feature this year was a two-day Script Development Seminar, coordinated by writer/broadcaster Gerry Sperling. The three areas of interest were covered by Maggie Siggins, writer/TV journalist, who conducted the Short Documentary group; Zale Dalen dealing with Short Drama; and John Porteous, Long Documentary. These sessions were supported by an eager crowd of about 40 people, who voted them a great success - bandying around such words as 'informative', 'likely', 'two days not enough'. The adjudicators were encouraged to strongly recommend video film scriptwriting awards starting in 1983.

The guest celebrity is an important pivot of the Festival, and Sandie Rinaldo (CTV's Canada AM and weekend National News) came in from Toronto for a

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couple of hectic days. With much fortitude she went through interviews, a speaking engagement, coffee party, and even a walk-about at a local shopping mall, plus the Awards festivities.

For the first time the presentation of the Awards was covered live on cable TV, beamed as far as Regina, and in the presence of Premier Grant Devine and his photogenic wife Chantal. The broadcast was M.C'd by Joel Scott, a personable young musician from Regina who plays a mean jazz flute - would that he had done only that! Strangely seduced by the camera and bright lights, he

launched into awful jokes and fulsome inanities. Amid the usual fluffs, with taped clips from winning films and video, and the usual interminable acceptance speeches, the 18th Festival came to a close with dancing and general carrying-on.

At 5:30 a.m. the following (Sunday) morning the adjudicators staggered into a van and were driven to Regina - their charter 'plane was grounded on account of ice pellets and fog. Somehow the glamour and excitement of the film world was missing.....

YORKTON WINNERS - Mini-reviews

P4W: PRISON FOR WOMEN - 58 mins. (Janis Cole/Holly Dale, Toronto)
This highly-honoured and widely reviewed film hits hard with a shattering (and sometimes unnerving) close-up of women in prison.
(Best Film of the Festival; Best in Category: The Human Condition; Best Cinematography: Nesya Shapiro)

BREAKING THROUGH - THE STORY OF NORMAN AND TOM - 58 mins. (Marie-Eve Thibault for the National Institute on Mental Retardation, Toronto)
A heart-wrenching and sometimes difficult film about two teenagers who have lived in a 999-bed institution for the mentally retarded in Vancouver since they were young children. Family and friends plan a supervised house into which the boys move. They gradually respond, and become aware of, their new and stimulating surroundings.
(Best in Category: The Human Dynamic)

STEADY AS SHE GOES - 25 mins. (Robert Fresco - National Film Board of Canada)
A delightful glimpse of George Fulfit, a retired mariner who puts ships inside bottles. An almost unbearable tension builds up as he inserts his biggest ship creation, the *Kruzenshtern*, with its complement of 170 tiny sailors on deck and aloft, into the bottle - whew! First-rate cinematography.
(Best in Category: The Spontaneous Human)

END GAME IN PARIS - 17 mins. (Veronika Soul - National Film Board of Canada)
An experimental fragment - maybe notes for a feature film? This fascinating drama presents a multi-faceted, textured and layered segment from Ian Adams' novel. In one instance, a writer in a café is seen writing on a page while his voice on the track repeats the words, other people's conversations intrude and the TV over the bar shows the horrors of war plus audio.
(Craft Awards: Best Direction and Editing - Veronika Soul, and Best Sound Editing - Jackie Newell)

A TIME TO BE BRAVE - 28 mins. (Paul Stephens, The Film Works, Toronto)
A winter story of a young Indian girl and her father living on their land, and of a way of life threatened by 'progress.'
(Craft Award: Best Performance - Ron Cook as Baba, the father)

DISTANT ISLANDS - 6 mins. (Bettina Maylone - National Film Board of Canada)
A young girl's sailing vacation with her parents is recalled in animated stitchery and appliqué. It's a magic moment when a house disappears into the background!
(Best Children's Production (plus \$500))

TED BARYLUK'S GROCERY - 10 mins. (John Paskievich and Mike Mirus - National Film Board of Canada)
Day-to-day life in a neighbourhood corner store in Winnipeg, brought to vital life in more than 200 still photographs, overlaid with a sound track recorded on the spot. A warm, human document - already valuable, because Ted Baryluk has died, and the store has gone.
(Nettie Kryski Canadian Heritage Award)

Special Jury Awards

QALLUNANNI (THE WHITE MAN'S LAND) - 28 mins. (One-Six Productions, Toronto)
Inuit students come south to attend school and, caught between two cultures, express their feelings and ideas. Pleasant music and well handled with the participation of the students in all technical areas.

LIFE ANOTHER WAY - 52 mins. (Alex Hamilton-Brown, Toronto)
A glimpse of the remarkable Beryl Potter - a triple amputee at 46 - formidable crusader for the rights of the disabled.

Certificates of Merit

GOOD MONDAY MORNING - 30 mins. (Laura Sky, Toronto)
How office work affects women - technology, stress, child care, discrimination, low pay etc.

THE BATTLE OF BEECH HALL - 27 mins. (Christopher Wilson, Toronto)
A spirited struggle by the elderly to keep their homes.

IF YOU LOVE THIS PLANET - 26 mins. (Terri Nash - National Film Board of Canada)
A chilling and authoritative lecture by Dr. Helen Caldicott on the implications of nuclear radiation.



● The Hon. Grant Devine, premier of Saskatchewan, presents Gold Sheaf award to Janis Cole and Holly Dale whose **P4W: Prison for Women** was rated best film of the festival.



The Canadian Independent Short Film Showcase

a program of the Canada Council administered by the Academy of Canadian Cinema

Entries are now being accepted for a national juried competition of short films.

Winning shorts will be distributed with feature films to commercial theatres across Canada.

Winning filmmakers will receive an honorarium of \$3,000.

To be eligible, films which may be live action or animated must meet the following criteria:

- be produced and directed by an independent Canadian filmmaker
- be 10 minutes or less
- be either 16mm or 35mm
- have been made within the last 3 years
- have dialogue in either English or French
- have copyright clearance and no previous run in a 35mm commercial theatre or previous showing on network TV or Pay-TV in North America.

Where applicable, the Canada Council will assume the expense of sub-titling, multiple prints and a blow-up to 35mm.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS JANUARY 15, 1983.

For application forms or further information please contact:

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