TORONTO FILMMAKERS CO-OP AWARDED \$8,000 OPPORTU-NITIES FOR YOUTH GRANT

Six students belonging to the Toronto Filmmakers Co-op received jobs for this Summer through the federal government's OFY program. Studying film at York University, the University of Toronto, and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the student filmmakers will spend the summer months sharing their knowledge with interested community groups or individuals through the running of a consultation service, and a series of basic film production workshops, as well as actually producing a 16mm short films on senior citizens.

The consultation service people will actively seek out groups and organizations throughout the city who might want to express themselves using the film medium. Adapt at all aspects of 16mm filming from scratch to finish, the more advanced students will help any project from pre-planning its budget and script all the way through shooting, editing, and post-production. Right through to a release print. The groups will have to finance their own films though. A daycare centre has already approached the Co-op for such assistance.

The basic film production workshops will be primarily designed for other Co-op members, as well as community people wanting to learn film techniques.

The Toronto Filmmakers Co-op is an alliance of over one hundred young Toronto filmmakers and film students. Founded over a year ago, the group has been funded by the Province of Ontario Council for the Arts, OFY, and the Local Initiatives Program. It has also organized several benefit screenings in Toronto theatres to cover administrative expenses. The Co-op's major activity has been a continuously running workshop program on many different levels (from the basics of super 8 to professional feature film sound recording taught by Patrick Spence-Thomas). In addition, weekly meetings are held, mostly with a screening attached.

Recently Don Owen, Morley Markson, and Peter Rowe have brought their films to screen and discuss.

Owen brought an early sixties film NOTES ON A FILM ABOUT DONNA AND GAIL shot in Montreal in '63 with Jackie Burroughs. It was very interesting to watch in the light of the seventies being more conscious of women's psyches than the sixties. Owen called it "the first women's lib film, way before anyone was dealing with the subject." DONNA AND GAIL examines the very close relationship between two working women in Montreal, and how they relate to men, or how men relate to their closeness. Since the attachment borders on homosexuality (overtly hinted at more than once), the film does seem ahead of its time. The question and answer session after the screening revealed many things about the filmmaker, the man who made NOBODY WAVED GOODBYE, the film that started people thinking in terms of Canadian features. Included in Owen's entourage for the evening were Sue Helen Petrie and his young son, who was very talkative during the screening, walking out when he was bored with his dad's work, and saying so, loudly!

Morley Markson showed BREATHING TOGETHER: REVOLUTION OF THE ELECTRIC FAMILY. Here's what Amos Vogel said about Markson's film in the 1972 International Film Guide:

"Probably the most important ideological comment on the radical American youth culture to appear this year is Morley Markson's Breathing Together. which embodies its values even in structure and style. A most creatively edited montage of the 'struggle between life and death culture in America,' it mingles Allen Ginsberg, Buckminster Fuller, Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, and John Lennon with newsreels, subliminal effects, doctored TV images, mysterious astronauts, the A-bomb, Chicago trial, Panthers - all events and issues that form the matrix of the new generation's sensibility - to create a free-flowing, 'psychedelic' equating of facts and metaphysics.

itself an expression of Consciousness III and the new political poetry." No more need by said, but more on Morley Markson in the next issue of CINEMA CANADA.

Peter Rowe was the most soft-spoken of the visiting filmmakers. He showed a half-hour segment from NEON PALACE: A FIFTIES TRIP, A SIXTIES TRIP, then a very impressive TV short GOOD FRI-DAY IN LITTLE ITALY. The latter was shot in the Bathurst-College area of Toronto on Good Friday when the big procession goes through the streets carrying the body of Christ and when people inadvertently reveal themselves through their roles in the community. Johnny Lombardi, the kids in the pool hall, the man who owns the fish store, the priests with the sun glasses, the old women who wail passionately about Christ's passion, and the inanimate yet alive fixtures in the area: the statue of Christ floating past ESSO signs and intersections, store windows filled with kitsch, street vendors setting up outside the church. But above all the film captures the power, the energy that flows through the streets on such a day, Good Friday, in Little Italy.

The Toronto Filmmakers Co-op is located at Room 201, 341 Bloor Street West, Toronto 181, Ontario; telephone (416) 921-2259.

Contact Jerry McNabb, Co-op coordinator.

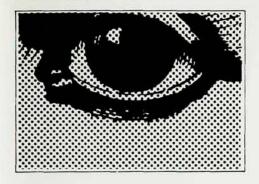
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