

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

Superchannel in Alberta, besieged and barraged by over 350 submissions, has negotiated several deals with Alberta producers, announced creative development manager Ed Richardson recently.

Since Feb. 1, Marc Schoenberg of Juma Productions has been shooting *Movie Week*, a weekly movie guide and review, at CFRN. Doug Hutton of Doug Hutton Video has produced nine episodes of *Devil's Lake Corral* music specials. At ITV, Ben Gordon has produced two episodes of the comedy show *Lost Satellite*.

In development is a 90-minute pilot for a family action-adventure series, *Striker's Mountain*, to be produced by Wendy Wacko in and around Jasper. Also in the works is a comedy show by an Edmonton producer.

Meanwhile, other projects include two equestrian events shot by CFCN at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, and a children's series, also in development.

The supergold available on loan from the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation is being showered selectively on Alberta producers, with a few sprinkles out-of-province.

Among the recipients of the loans: Maxine Samuels of Four Nine Film Productions in Calgary for John Ware project, a 2 1/4 hour movie aimed for pay-television. Samuels has attracted other funding and support from CFDC, as well as a development contract against licensing from First Choice. The story of the black pioneer cowboy, originally slated for a fall '83 shoot, has been postponed to the spring of '84, because of the need for a diversity of seasons, as well as the temporary cash flow problems of First Choice, reports Samuels. Rob Forsythe (CBC's *Vanderberg*) is the writer of the \$3 million venture.

● Wendy Wacko of Wacko Productions in Jasper for the pilot of *Striker's Mountain*.

● Nick Bakyta of Tinsel Media of Edmonton for *River of Bones*, a co-production with NFB, the loan being for research and development only. The 60-minute \$250,000 documentary about early paleontology will shoot in August in Drumheller. Also receiving approval in principle is a loan to Tinsel Media for *Blood Sweat and Cheers*, a TV series about the psychological aspect of sports.

● Michelle Stirling and Per Asplund of Calgary for a feature film based on *The Studhorse Man*. The loan has been granted in principle with the terms under negotiation.

● Michael Spencer, David Patterson and Pieter Kroonen-

burg of Filmline in Montreal for a six-part mini-series based on Rudy Wiebe's *Temptations of Big Bear*. Pete White in Edmonton will write the treatments, slated for a fall '83 or spring '84 shoot.

André Lamy and Donna Wong-

Juliani of the CFDC, and Roman Melnyk of the CBC, met with Alberta filmmakers in Calgary in late May to unveil and demystify the new Canadian Broadcast Program Development Fund. "Every Canadian is equal before the CFDC", said Lamy in response to questions about regional distribution of the funds. Bill Marsden, director of the Film Industry Development Office of Alberta Economic Development, commented "If I were still in the private

sector, I would know there is money available that wasn't available last month, and I would be trying to capitalize on it. This is the most impressive recent development in the industry in terms of regional access."... Famous Players opened Studio 82 in Calgary on June 17, and will open a five-plex in the West Edmonton Mall on Aug. 19... Peter Campbell of Dreamland Pictures has directed and co-produced (with Kicking Horse) a one-hour film covering

the Mr. and Mrs. Nude Entertainment of Canada competition... Tinsel Media is developing a series on the politics of heroin, *Veins of Darkness*... Renfrew Insurance in Calgary is now providing insurance to the entertainment industry after a successful stint with Eda Lishman.



National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada

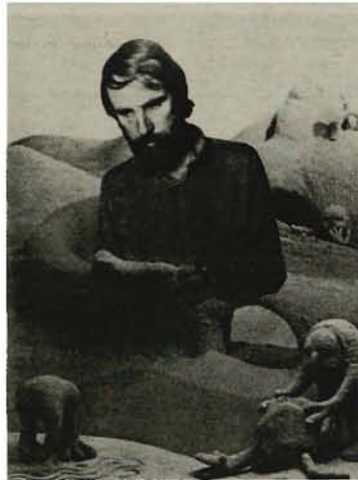
NEWS

NFB Animates Paris

A summer-long exhibit of the work of the NFB's French animation studio opened in Paris at the Canadian Cultural Center June 16. "Portrait d'un studio d'animation" includes selected films and displays of animation sets and technical equipment. Animators from the studio will be present throughout the summer to field questions from visitors and to demonstrate the variety of techniques used in the studio. As well, Co Hoedeman, Pierre Hebert, and Jacques Drouin will give special weekend demonstrations of their individual techniques. According to Yves Leduc, coordinator of the exhibit, "Portrait" was designed to reveal "all facets of the art of animation—the people, the philosophy and the films." A handsome 90-page brochure about the studio has been published as both a companion piece to the exhibit and as a resource document for film students and others interested in the history of animation. Following its run in Paris, the exhibit will travel to Holland in the Fall, to Brussels in March, and then back home for a national tour of Canada.

NFB Films on Texas T.V.

For the month of July, Texas television station, KERA, will telecast NFB documentary and feature films as part of its salute to Canada. KERA is boasting to be the first American television station to run such a Canada film program. "The series is patterned after the Canadian film retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York...", but this is the first time such a collection



Co Hoedeman

has been shown on television in this country (U.S.)," said Christina Worden, manager of broadcast scheduling for KERA. Among the films included in the retrospective are documentaries directed by Michael Rubbo, Donald Brittain, and Bill Mason; and the controversial *Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery*, which was labelled political propaganda by the United States Justice Department.

BUMPER YEAR FOR NFB AT AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Nine NFB films earned awards at the American Film Festival in New York (May 30 - June 4). Sponsored by the Educational Film Library Association (EFLA) the American Film Festival is one of the largest audiovisual markets. All blue and red ribbon award-winning films will be retained by EFLA for special public

screenings in the U.S. First place Blue Ribbons went to:

- *A War Story*, a feature documentary directed by Anne Wheeler, in the history category;
- *Steady as She Goes*, an NFB Ontario Regional Production directed by Robert Fresco, in the crafts and hobbies category;
- *Top Priority*, an animation film directed by Ishu Patel, human concerns category;
- *If You Love This Planet*, directed by Terri Nash for the NFB's Women's Studio, nuclear issues category;
- *Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery*, commissioned to Crawley Films Ltd. by the NFB for Environment Canada, environmental issues category.

The American Film Festival awarded Red Ribbons to:

- *People at Work: A Right to Refuse?* directed by Clayton Bailey and produced by the NFB in cooperation with the Canadian Labour Congress, Labour Education and Studies Centre, in business and industry category;
- "E", an animated film directed by Bretislav Pojar, humor and satire category;
- *Magic in the Sky*, directed by Peter Raymont and co-produced by the NFB and Investigative Productions, in the lifestyles and profiles category;
- *Distant Islands*, directed by Bettina Maylone received honorable mention, in the animation category.

NFB Offices in Canada:

Headquarters - Montreal (514) 333-3452
Pacific region - Vancouver (604) 666-1716
Prairie region - Winnipeg (204) 949-4129
Ontario region - Toronto (416) 369-4094

National Capital - Ottawa (613) 996-4259
Quebec region - Montreal (514) 283-4823
Atlantic region - Halifax (902) 426-6000
plus offices in most major cities