

to left across the triple screens, and we're in Hamilton; and on to a quick look at Toronto. At the first lock on the Welland Canal there's a graphic illustration of a ship lining up and just squeezing through, and then aboard a Spanish ship as it negotiates through the system to the Detroit River and Windsor. The instructional journey continues - Sarnia, Collingwood, Thunder Bay, with glimpses of tankers and other large trading vessels.

And on to a thundering finish with a launching at the Collingwood Shipyards - excited children, work gangs banging in wooden wedges on one side of the ship, and the dramatic severing of cords with single axe blows. The vessel is launched, and a huge plume of spray washes across all screens amid yells and cheers.

This is a film made for a specific purpose, and designed to evoke an immediate and popular response in a general, mixed audience of all ages. Exceedingly competent and, in many ways, a model of how to give the government what it wants for its money. However... isn't it possible to make this type of sponsored film with a bit more flair, to find an approach along an untrod path, and to avoid what is now facetiously called "the NFB style"? The overburdened narration by Chris Wiggins, and the tired delivery, seemed to weigh down this short film.

First-rate cinematography, and full marks to the picture and sound editing even though the partial use of the three screens on a number of occasions was disconcerting. Intended for effect, or even perhaps to rest the eyeballs, in such a short film it wouldn't have mattered if there had been a continual cascade of images.

Pat Thompson •

INWARD PASSAGE p./d. Rudy Buttignol exec. p./narr. David Lancaster cam. Mark Irwin csc p. man./assoc. p. Howard Hutton sd. ed. Robin Leigh ed. Murray Battle music. Drew King loc. sd. Daniel Latour re-rec. Elius Caruso graphics/anim. David How p.c. Rudy Inc. (for Marine and Pipeline Office, Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications) dist. Ontario Place running time 19.5 min.

Richard Leiterman
& Peter Shatalow's

Doris McCarthy: Heart of a Painter

Doris McCarthy is an extraordinary artist and human being, now in her early seventies. One unmistakable impression that the viewer receives from this film about her life is that she has always taken risks and continues to do so. It is there in her paintings and it is there in the style of her life - that adventurous spirit necessary both for art and for really being alive.

Although McCarthy taught at Central Technical School in Toronto for 40 years before retiring in 1972 to become a full-time artist, she has been painting professionally almost all her life. Born in Calgary, she studied at the Ontario College of Art under Arthur Lismer, one of the original Group of Seven painters. But her landscape paintings have a unique style of her own. "I saw God in Nature, and that God was real to me," she says.

While having a film made about one's

life is a risk in itself, Doris McCarthy has here gone even further by allowing the filmmakers to dramatize moments from her life, glowingly portrayed by Canadian actress Linda Kupecek. Moreover, McCarthy herself creates, through the course of the film, a new work in oil - a landscape of the Canadian Badlands. We see her sketching on location, then later translating her sketches and memory into a finished work. Allowing the camera to trace this process in detail reveals not only the confidence of a superb painter but also the generosity and adventuresome nature of a fine teacher.

The style of this film is fluid and

intimate, like its subject. The filmmakers have taken great pains to illuminate the individual works: exploring the canvases, relating them to each other and to the land, and also finding a subtle composition or remark which will further reveal the heart of the paintings in McCarthy herself. This intimacy makes the film intense and poignant. By the film's end, we care deeply about this person who has shared so much of herself in her art, her teaching, and this film. A sequence in the closing moments of *Doris McCarthy: Heart Of A Painter* summarizes much. McCarthy, aged 74, is figure-skating on the ice: performing a series of graceful figure-eights for the

camera. The filmmakers give us a freeze-frame of her, poised as if for flight - having with one foot traced the symbol of infinity.

Joyce Nelson •

DORIS MCCARTHY: HEART OF A PAINTER

d. Richard Leiterman, Peter Shatalow p. Wendy Wacko cinematographer Richard Leiterman, John Walker ed. Peter Shatalow mus. John Mills-Cockell narr. Robin Ward assoc. p. Christopher Lowry sd. Garrell Clark, Brian Day, Glen Gauthier, Margaret Leiterman, Chris Wangler cam. asst. Christopher Bonniere, Jeremy Brigden, John Hobson colour 16mm running time 56 min. dist./p.c. W. Wacko Productions Ltd., Box 1651, Jasper, Alberta (403) 852-4728.

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