

## SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

*Finders Keepers*, a frothy fast-moving comedy, has been zooming around southern Alberta under the guidance of director Richard Lester. Budgeted at under \$7 million, the Soundcross Films feature is produced by Sandra Marsh and will be distributed by CBS

for Warner Bros. in the U.S. and Canada.

Alberta locations included Red Deer, Strathmore, Vulcan, High River, Lethbridge, and, of course, Calgary from Aug. 14 to Oct. 8. Then the production moves to Vancouver for several days.

Lester was apparently so pleased with his Alberta experience with *Superman III* (with provincial film industry development officer Bill Marsden and then Calgary liaison Malcolm Harvey throwing out the red carpet while snipping red tape) that he suggested a return engagement for *Finders Keepers*. Dusty Symonds, well acquainted with the turf from his stint with *Superman III*, returned as well in a new role as associate producer. And an-

other new player on the scene is Dave Crowe, the new manager of the film industry development office for the City of Calgary.

Typically, the top of the cast is American, the bottom Canadian, with about 90 of the 130 crew members Canadian. The key department heads are British, with the exception of production manager Les Kimber.

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*Draw*, a \$4.2 million western from big guns Astral Film Productions Ltd. in association with the Bryna Company, has completed a six-week shoot in Alberta. Kirk Douglas, James Coburn and Alexandra Bastedo star for producer Ron Cohen and director Steven Stern.

Publicist Tom Crichton reports that the all-Canadian crew of 100 is mostly Albertan. In addition to historic Fort Edmonton, a studio in the south side of Edmonton was targeted for the shooting, as well as Whiskey Flats and Superman Flat in the badlands of Drumheller. J.P. Finn was location manager; Grace Gilroy was production manager, and the Pros from Dover supplied lighting and equipment. Bette Chadwick of the Other Agency Casting Limited handled casting with Deirdre Bowen of Toronto.

Meanwhile, the Credo Group of Winnipeg moved into Banff for an NFB docudrama on the history of the Cave and Basin... *The Stripper*, the \$1.3 million brainchild of New Yorker Jerome (*Pumping Iron*) Gary captured a few acts at the Ranchman's in Calgary before moving on to locations in Forth MacLeod, Vancouver, and Las Vegas... Insight Film Group of Calgary is ballooning into all parts of the province for a 15 minute-film promotional for the Department of Agriculture

... Pincher Creek hosted a rock video shoot from New York... and rumours of more location shooting float over the golden wheatfields of the province.

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Superchannel's free weekend blitz for new subscribers offered 53 hours of continuing programming, with Superchannel spokesmen delighted with the results... *Romantic Manoeuvres*, a feature-length video movie by Michael Keusch, premiered in Calgary in August... ACCESS South has moved further south, to Atrium Six in Midnapore Industrial Park... Quinn Donoghue of Niagara Film Productions reports several projects, including a black comedy, *Gingerbread House*, to be filmed in Alberta next year... Chris Van Snellenberg, district manager of Canadian Odeon in Calgary, reports that the annual convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Association of Alberta was held at Jasper Park Lodge at the end of September.

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Alberta was represented at Trade Forum '83 in Toronto by a crowd of westerners: Maxine Samuels (Four Nine Film Productions); William Marsden (Alberta Economic Development); Dave Crowe (City of Calgary Business Development); Ken Chapman, Orville Kope, Robin Jost and Aristides Gazetas (Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation); Peter Campbell (Dreamland Pictures); Margaret Kopala (Maggie's Movies); Wendy Wacko (Wacko Productions); Randy Bradshaw (Bradshaw-MacLeod and Associates); Michelle Stirling (Moonstone Enterprises); Gabor Zinner (Dworkin Zinner); Dieter Nachtigall (ACCESS); and Glenn Ludlow (Take One/Print One).

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## Meager representation at NY fest

NEW YORK - The honor of representing the Canadian film industry at the 21st New York Film Festival somewhat surprisingly devolved upon *Sifted Evidence*, an independent film written, directed and edited by Patricia Gruben who teaches film at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Her 42-min. movie is a mixture of didactics and entertainment about the misadventures of a rather inept single woman in macho Mexico.

A further touch of Canada was present in the case of Jonathan Kaplan's *Heart Like a Wheel*, a 20th Century-Fox release which was voted first runner-up for the Critics Award at the recent Toronto Film Festival. Sold originally as an action picture, it flopped. Now re-oriented as a "classy film for special audiences" (in the words of Jack Brodsky, the stu-

dio VP for advertising), it won the Toronto accolade, shortly after which it was selected for the New York festival. Buttressed by excellent reviews, it opened in New York to critical and public acclaim and is headed for national U.S. release.

Some 29 films from 14 countries participated in the New York event. Seven features from four major studios (Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists and Universal) are already booked in first-run theaters. Among the 16 other films for theatrical distribution are Robert Altman's *Streamers*, Lawrence Kasdan's *The Big Chill*, Francis Ford Coppola's *Rumble Fish*, Jean-Luc Godard's *Passion*, Diane Kurys' *Entre nous* and Alain Resnais' *La vie est un roman*.

Elaine H. George