

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

With two features shooting on location in Edmonton, Banff and Calgary, the AMPDC revving up nearly two dozen projects, and the Film Canada Centre reporting queries galore for Alberta, the famous sun has returned to the skies, and glimmers of hope have reappeared in Alberta filmmakers' eyes.

Drastic Measures (formerly *Isaac Littlefeathers*) started June 10 in and around Edmonton. Executive producers are Ron Lillie and Gerald Soloway. Producers are Barry Pearson and Bill Johnston. Les Rose directs the story of a young Indian boy raised as a Jew in a small prairie town. Richard Hudolin is production designer, Arvi Liimatainen is production manager, and Doug MacLeod is location manager. Casting was handled by Ross Clydesdale (Canadian Casting Associates) and Bette Chadwick (The Other Agency Casting Limited) and Diane Rogers (The Other Agency South).

The two-hour feature for television is a Lauron Production in association with CBC, Doug Hutton Corporation of Alberta, Telefilm Canada, Superchannel, the AMPDC and private industry sources. Cast includes Lou Jacobi, Scott Hylands, Eiko Waida, Lorraine Behaan and Robert Astle.

Snowballs (reported in an earlier column) a low-budget Calgary-based feature, started May 20 in Sunshine Ski Village in Banff and finished the five-week shoot in Calgary. Cast includes Jackson Davies, Fred Williamson, champion skier Peter Judge, and Gentle Ben the Bear. Executive producer is Lawrence Ryckman. Co-producer is Mike Baker. Script is by Neil Gordon, Alex Tadich and Larry Ryckman.

Meanwhile, **Cree... The Last War Cry** (a television mini-series based on the novel "The Temptations of Big Bear") will shoot in northern Alberta for 13 weeks in September. Ralph Thomas will direct. The project, developed by Filmline Productions of Montreal in association with CBC, Telefilm Canada and the AMPDC, will be telecast on CBC in 1986.

Brothel, a feature film produced by Donald Ginsberg of Altor Media Corporation and Grace Gilroy of Kicking Horse, will shoot in southern Alberta in September. Gerry Thomas (the British *Carry On* movies) will direct.

Also, Pri-Media Television Inc., a new company based in Edmonton, will move into production this fall with *The Little Vampire*, a \$2.5 million Neilsen-Ferns and Allarcom production. The 13-part children's television series, a coproduction with Polyphon of Ham-

burg, West Germany, will be produced at CITV's Edmonton studios.

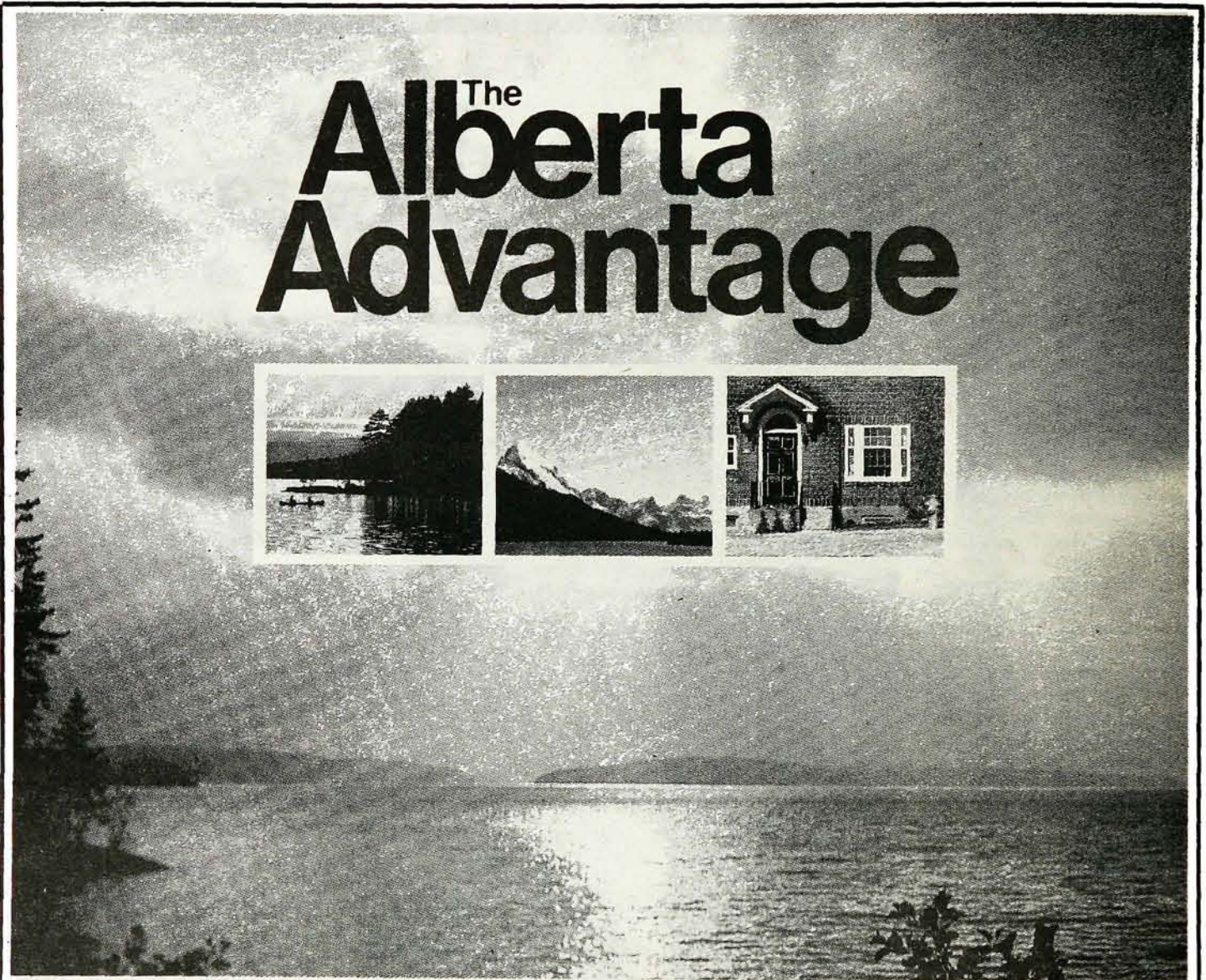
Praying for a 1985 shoot are the producers of *The Saint Game*, another AMPDC-assisted feature. Simon and Jennifer Peers plan to shoot the film, based on

the novel by Cicely Louise Evans, on location at Sylvan-croft, a 37-room mansion in Edmonton. Set in the polite society of post-WWI Edmonton, *The Saint Game* follows two young Protestant girls who discover saints, miracles and the darker side of their family.

Frank Poole, the AMPDC's distribution whiz in London, met with film people in Edmonton

and Calgary in May... John Scott zig-zagging between Calgary and Vancouver, where he stunted on the Tom Selleck pic *Runaway*... The Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers screened a series of three films from the British Film Institute in June... In the same month, ACCESS broadcast a new children's series, *The Magic Ring*... but the big news is that ACCESS is expanding into satellite transmission to supply educational services to the entire province... Isaac Thomas of

Thomas Ben Films mixed the 90 min. low-budget feature *Mahareeshi* at Thunder Road Studios with editor Peter Svab. In the works is an action-oriented psychodrama... ACTRA women in Edmonton sponsored womanstrength: A Celebration, an evening of prose and poetry readings... Paul Hanes of Famous Players reports the opening of the five-plex Sunridge Cinemas in northeast Calgary. One theatre has Dolby sound and 70 mm while two screens are 3-D equipped.



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