

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

Two projects shooting in Alberta have altered their course slightly. An enforced break in the schedule of *Snowballs* and a new name for *Isaac Littlefeathers*, now called *Drastic Measures*, affects one company in a major way, the other only in title.

Snowballs, a ski comedy produced by Ryckman Films of Calgary, has been rescheduled around the ski sequences and cast availability. May blizzards at Sunshine Village Ski Resort near Banff prevented the stunt ski team headed by freestyle skier Peter Judge from completing their scenes. Also, star Jackson Davies has returned to Vancouver for a role in the Tom Selleck picture, *Runaway*.

Snowballs is scheduled to resume August 15, says producer Larry Ryckman, with some second unit helicopter shooting in June. Ironically, in July, the Alberta-originated production hopes to fly to New Zealand to pick up the ski sequences.

Co-writer and publicist Alex Tadich reports that most of the snow sequences have been completed, except for the stunts, with interiors in Calgary to be filmed at the end of August. Frank Griffiths is director of sound on the production, and Mike Baker is co-producer.

Drastic Measures, the story of a young Métis headed towards a Bar Mitzvah, is produced by Lauron International Inc. of Toronto in association with the King Motion Picture Corporation of Edmonton. The drama, budgeted at \$2.2 million, is directed by Les Rose, who also wrote the script with Barry Pearson. Richard Hudolin is art director.

So far, the production has been steadily on schedule and under budget, with only one day of weather cover. Locations include Whyte Avenue in Edmonton (which was blocked off for the weekend for conversion to a 1950's set), Elk Island and the parks area east of Edmonton.

Brian Ault of Superchannel (one of the participants) reports that Will Korbitt, the Edmonton schoolboy cast as the lead, Isaac Littlefeathers, "looks sensational." Bette Chadwick (who worked with Ross Clydesdale of Canadian Casting Associates and Diane Rogers of Calgary on casting) says the local actors are doing very well. "I hope it encourages more other companies to cast locally," says Chadwick.

CFCN Television in Calgary won a Bessie Award for its *Meetcha at the Pickle* com-

mercial. Also, *Solitudes*, a series produced by Keg Productions (50% owned by CFCN) is a finalist in the Wildscreen '84 Festival in Britain.

Meanwhile, CFCN's 10,000 sq. ft. soundstage, Studio III, has played host to several commercials, and CFCN's hardware complement has been upgraded with an Ampex ADO and an

Ampex ACE computer editing system.

With Canadian Odeon now part of the Cineplex Corporation, the district offices in Calgary are closed. But the local Canadian Odeon management is still in place: Chris Van Snellenberg has become supervisor and Ed Svihura is the North Hill Cinema manager... Electronic music whiz Amin Bhatia (of West Track Sound in Calgary) has returned from the

U.S., where he programmed a synthesizer display for the annual computer show in Chicago, working with the midi, a new instrument, and hooking up seven synthesizers to an IBM computer. "The personal computer of the future will have a synthesizer outlet and everyone will be able to play synthesizers by then," says Bhatia, who has won both an AMPA award and the Roland Synthesizer Competition in the U.S., for his original music... Saint Game Pro-

ductions in Edmonton hosted a June tea party in the 37-room mansion which will be the set for *The Saint Game* next year... The first women's newsletter born of the networking group formed at the Banff Television Festival is now making the rounds, penned by Natalie Edwards of Toronto, and organized by the producers of Calgary... East of the border, the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival is gearing up for Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 for the Golden Sheaf Awards.

The Alberta Advantage



Focus on this scenic Canadian province of sunny skies, low costs, and tax-saving advantages.

For your next important shoot, how about Alberta? The scenery is fabulous, the climate superb and the price is right! Things like accommodation, food, gas, retail and travel expenses are all free of provincial tax - and Alberta is the only province in Canada that doesn't collect sales tax.

Another big plus? Clear Alberta skies and extra hours of daily sunlight can shorten your shooting schedule considerably.

The Alberta Advantage shows up big on the bottom line for production costs.

We'll help you find the perfect location in the incredibly varied and scenic terrain of Alberta. It's all yours for the asking with a call to the Alberta Film Industry Development Office at (403) 427-2005.

Bill Marsden, Director
Film Industry Development
Alberta Economic Development
9th Floor, Pacific Plaza
10909 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3M8

Alberta
CANADA