

## SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

*Bridge to Terabithia*, a one-hour drama for the PBS "Wonderworks" series, was shot in and around Edmonton from Sept. 26 to Oct. 10.

Eric Till (*If You Could See What I Hear*, *Hot Millions*) directed the story of a young boy's development and search for identity. Nancy Sackett adapted the screenplay from the book by Catherine Paterson.

*Bridge to Terabithia* is a co-production of Twenty Minute Productions of Los Angeles and Edmonton's Kicking Horse Productions with the facilities of Allarcom Limited. Executive producers are Bill Novodor (*Invasion of Privacy*) and Nancy Sackett (*Glitter*, *Skyword*) both of Los Angeles. Producers are

Eddie Dodds (*Hart to Hart*, *Colombo*) and Arvi Liimatainen of Kicking Horse.

Allarcom Limited, as an investor in the project (total budget about \$500,000) has the Canadian pay television rights, and is supplying equipment and personnel (camera, lighting, art direction and carpentry) through ITV Productions.

The cast includes American Annette O'Toole, Canadians Gloria Carlin (from Los Angeles), Julian Coutts, Julie Beaulieu, Peter Dvorsky, Tom Heaton, and Albertans Jennifer Matychuk and Aasa Fipke.

The trail that led to Edmon

The trail that led to Edmonton from Los Angeles began

with a commitment to executive producers Novodor and Sackett from PBS. Searching for additional financial support and quality production facilities, they were directed to Allarcom Limited and Kicking Horse Productions.

*The Komagata Maru Incident*, the acclaimed stage play by Calgary playwright Sharon Pollock (winner of the Governor General's Award for "Blood Relations") has been adapted for television. ACCESS Alberta taped the 60-minute video version Oct. 1-12 in its Edmonton studio, in three-camera style.

Pollock adapted the script

for television. The work is already in the high school curriculum, and this version is intended to be used in conjunction with the program and teacher's guide.

Producer Gene Packwood directed the all-Albertan cast which included Elan Ross Gibson, Blair Haynes, Christopher Moore, Brigitte Blunck-Devique, Graham MacPherson and Veena Sood.

*The Komagata Maru Incident* will air Jan. 13, the opening night of the ACCESS satellite network.

The Banff Festival of Mountain Films (Nov. 2-4) overcame unseasonably cold weather with a bouquet of awards to winning films: The Best of the Festival - *Eiger*, Leo Dickinson of Great Britain; Best Film on Mountaineering - *Opera Verticle*, France; Best Film on Mountain

Sports Other than Mountaineering - *Apocalypse Snow*, France; Best Film on Environmental Issues in Mountain Area - *Sherpa*, United States; Best Promotional Mountain Film - *Whistler, the Great Summer Getaway*, Petersen Productions, Canada; Best Historical Mountain Film - *Lake Louise - Mountain Legend*, Anthony Perzel, Canmore, Canada; Best Film on Mountain Safety - *Rescues for River Runners*, University of Calgary, Canada; Best Expedition Film - *To the Ends of the Earth*, Arm and Hammer, United States; Special Jury Award - *Return to Everest*, National Geographic Society, United States.

The jury consisted of Sidney Platt (National Geographic Society), John Amatt (climber and founder of the Festival), Bruno Engler (mountaineer and cameraman), Fil Fraser (film producer and now program coordinator at CKUA), Bruce Patterson (Calgary Herald) and Clair Israelson (Parks Canada). Guest speaker was Austrian climber and instructor Peter Habeler.

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The 11th Annual Film and Television Awards will be held Feb. 16, 1985, in Edmonton... and the Banff Television Festival is slated for June 2-8, 1985... Canawest-Master Films Ltd. has been awarded the contract to film the progress of construction of the Olympic Winter Games sites... Multi-skilled John Scott was stunt coordinator, transportation coordinator, and handled wrangling for *Boy in Blue* in Montreal, then moved to stunt coordinator on *April Fool* in Toronto... CBC Calgary recently produced "Ballade", a Centredisc recording of Canadian music by pianist Charles Foreman... Calgary playwright Paddy Campbell is now chairman of the Playwrights Union of Canada... Edmonton stills photographer Doug Curran is also in print. "In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space", will be published by Abbeville Press in New York City, with a forward by Tom Wolfe. A combination of photographs and text, "In Advance of the Landing" documents the modern mythology about aliens... The Southern Alberta Composite Branch of ACTRA elected a new Branch Council Oct. 29 in Calgary: president - Douglas Riske (performer); vice-president - Grant Lowe (performer); Brian Gromoff (performer); Tom Keenan (writer); Val Pearson (writer); and Don Truckey (writer) with additional Council members past-president Maureen Thomas (performer) and previously elected national director Linda Kupecek (performer)... Meanwhile, *Birds of Prey* hopes for an early November shoot; *Snowballs* is trying to regain momentum; and *Brothel* may go in January.