

## SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

*Isaac Littlefeathers*, the \$2.2 million feature shot in Alberta last June, premiered Dec. 6 at Edmonton's Odeon Theatre, amid modest hoopla, and hopeful predictions for more of the same.

Just as the plot of *Isaac Littlefeathers* (back to its original title after a brief bout as *Drastic Measures*) deals with a young Métis boy caught in the cross-cultures of Indian and Jewish families in a small prairie town, so the funding was born of many sources, including the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation, Allarcom Limited (Superchannel/CITV), the CBC, Telefilm Canada and private investors. Doug Hutton of the King Motion Picture Corporation was one of the key factors in securing the Alberta bankroll, pulling in dollars from private investors, and ensuring the participation of the AMPDC. Produced by Lauron International Inc. of Toronto in association with the King Motion Picture Corporation of Alberta, *Isaac Littlefeathers* will be distributed by Cinema Concepts.

Although producers Bill Johnston and Barry Pearson, executive producers Ronald Lillie and Gerald Solway, and director Les Rose were Toronto-based, the project's cast and crew were substantially Albertan. (In AMPDC talk, this may be translated into "being of significant benefit to Albertans" ... despite some claims that the film, originating elsewhere, was not truly Albertan.) Production manager Arvi Liimatainen headed a 50-person crew which roamed Whyte Avenue in Edmonton, as well as making forays into Elk Island

and the Drumheller badlands. Les Rose and Barry Pearson wrote the screenplay. Ed Higginson was D.O.P.; Richard Hudolin was art director; Wendy Hudolin costumed the cast, including Lou Jacobi, Scott Hylands, Will Korb, Lorraine Behnan, George Clutesi, Tom Heaton and Robert Astle. Casting was handled by Ross Clydesdale, Stuart Aikins and Bette Chadwick.

Bill Johnston, speaking at the premiere, thanked, "not only the CBC, but also the Province of Alberta, the Alberta Motion

Picture Development Corporation, and Allarcom," with a special thanks to Bill Marsden of the Film Industry Development Office for his help with location scouting. Hugh Planche, Minister of Economic Development for the Province of Alberta, added the provincial government's blessing to the film, one of the first AMPDC-supported features out of the chute onto Alberta turf. (The first was *Draw*, filmed in 1983.) Meanwhile, director Les Rose paced the stage nervously, before cast members present were introduced. An appreciative and obviously partisan crowd applauded happily throughout the premiere.

After the showing, a Super-

channel reception at the Four Seasons seemed like a who's who of Alberta film: Lorne MacPherson (president of the AMPDC); Bill Marsden (director of the Film Industry Development Office); Tom and Judy Peacocke (he won the Genie for Best Actor for *Hounds of Notre Dame*, and is on the AMPDC board); Bette Chadwick of the Other Agency Casting Limited; Arvi Liimatainen; lawyer Ken Chapman; Luther Haave and Patricia Mahon of Superchannel; super-publicist Heather Grue; as well as Rudi Carter from CBC Toronto, and Colleen Bailey of Saskatchewan Superchannel. Later, a more informal party at Alberta Place was organized by the cast and crew,

with a picnic atmosphere, and drag-out-the-pretzels-and-let-down-your-hair camaraderie.

After theatrical release, *Isaac Littlefeathers* will be shown on the CBC network in the 1985-86 prime-time schedule, with Canadian pay-TV rights secured by Superchannel.

TORONTO—Creative Exposure Inc., announced that it acquired exclusive Canadian distribution rights to five previously unreleased and unavailable films directed in Mexico by the late Luis Bunuel. The five films will have their Canadian premiere at the Revue Cinema in Toronto starting Jan. 18.

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