

Toronto's U-Knows gets TV show

TORONTO - CBC Television will be broadcasting this year's U-Know awards on April 24. The U-Knows are "people's choice" awards honouring the Canadian music industry. By means of a public balloting system, run in two magazines, the public select their favourite performers in 14 categories. The U-Knows are sponsored by CFNY-FM and CBC's flagship station, CBLT. The awards ceremony is in its fifth year. It was originally set up to spotlight musicians not widely known. Past winners include Carole Pope of Rough Trade, Lorraine Segato and Billy

Bryans of Parachute Club, and the Spoons. CFNY is currently running a contest to select a new name for the U-Knows. The new name will be announced at the commencement of the awards show. This is the first year that the show will be televised.

MONTREAL - Shooting ended Mar. 20 on Pierre Harel's surrealist feature *Grelot rouge et sanglot bleu* with an action painting session at nightclub Les Foufounes électriques.

Nine leading Montreal action painters were on-hand to whip up the paintings that will serve as the film's intertitles.

Bay Boy, Québécois sweep Genie Awards

TORONTO - The question everybody seemed to be asking at the sixth annual Genie awards Mar. 21 was: who won more - the French or the English? The answer depends on how one views *The Bay Boy*. Although its script and actors are English, the producers and technicians are Québécois.

With six awards *The Bay Boy* swept the Genies. It won for best picture (producers: John Kemeny and Denis Héroux); best supporting actor (Alan Scarfe); best art direction (Wolf Kroeger); best costume design (Renee April); best sound editing (Charles Bower, Peter Burgess); and best screenplay (Daniel Petrie).

Daniel Petrie who works mainly in the States told Cinema Canada how much the project meant to him. "It was the most incredible homecoming in the world. I was a Bay Boy." He said it was the most emotional movie he has done, but "I don't think it's possible to get so autobiographical again."

He felt that *Bay Boy* is a truly Canadian film with international appeal. It is just opening in the U.S. and will open early April in England and mid April in Australia. Petrie said that at a screening of *Bay Boy* in Australia in January, the projectionist had told him, "It's the first Australian film shot out of Australia." Petrie added that he is working on another Canadian project - set on Sable Island off Nova Scotia in the 1920's.

The only other English feature film to win a Genie was *Draw*. Linda Sorenson, now living in the States, took the prize for best supporting actress.

Louise Marleau, who won Best Actress for her part in *La Femme de l'hôtel*, wasn't even sure that she was going to make it to the awards ceremony. She had been up since

6:30 working and didn't think they would finish in time. But she was delighted that she came, reflecting that the film hadn't done too well in Toronto perhaps because it was categorized as an art film.

For Micheline Lanctôt, winner of the best direction award for *Sonatine*, which hasn't opened in Toronto, the categorization of French-language films as art films was hampering the distribution of Quebec films in English Canada. She told Cinema Canada that "a lot of French Quebec films are slotted into the art pigeonhole. They are not played on the major circuits. We've been told to shoot in English. We can't and that's that. The whole problem lies in exploitation rather than in culture and identity. We are condemned to the art circuit."

In other awards, *Mario* picked up three Genies for cinematography (Pierre Mignot); music score (François Dompierre); and overall sound (Bruce Nyznik, Richard Besse, Hans Peter Strobl). *La Femme de l'hôtel* picked up a second award for best original song ("Touch Me" by Yves Laffiere, Marjolene Morin, Paule Baillargeon). The editing Genie went to Andre Corriveau for *La Guerre des tuques*. Gabriel Arcand took Best Actor for his role in *Le Crime d'Ovide Plouffe*. Jon Minnis took the best theatrical short award for his student film *Charade*, made on a \$300 budget. (Four nights later he picked up an Oscar for the film in the same category.) Best theatrical documentary went to *Raoul Wallenberg: Buried Alive* (producers: Wayne Arron, David Harel).

The Academy also presented two special awards to "distinguished members of the Canadian film community." Paul Le

Blanc received his Genie for outstanding motion picture hair and make-up design for such films as *Return of the Jedi*, *Death Hunt*, *Places in the Heart*, and *Amadeus* (for which he also won an Oscar) among others.

Ivan Reitman was presented with a Genie for his "outstanding contributions to contemporary motion picture comedy." Reitman, who directed such box-office smashes as *Animal House*, *Meatballs*, *Stripes* and *Ghostbusters*, told Cinema Canada that it was a "great honour for me. I made my first film in Canada." He added that "it's important to go into the U.S. It was very important for me. It is the centre for international filmmaking."

Cinema Canada has learned that Reitman intends to set up an international fund for young filmmakers. In Canada, he is currently discussing a project with Toronto filmmaker Ron Mann. Reitman said he plans to make an announcement in the near future.

Ottawa Film Society fetes Golden with AGM, discussions

OTTAWA - The Ottawa Film Society - Canada's first - is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. As part of its Golden anniversary celebrations the OFS will be hosting the annual general meeting and preview weekend of the Canadian Federation of Film Societies from May 17-20. A key topic at the AGM will be the future of 16mm film distribution.

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