and a giant little talent in Lucie Laurier, the delicately baroque music of Normand Roger; a devoted crew of the competence of people like d.o.p. Thomas Vamos. And, in Manitoba at least, where the transport service recognition it merits among Francophones, an enthusiastic audience turnout.

But in Quebec, an ex-bastion of francophones that prides itself on its cinematic sophistication, it was met with, at best, yawns, at worst, an unconscionable insult.

May be that’s why Grenier, a Quebecois, has decided like Jutra once, he’d rather work as a filmmaker out of Toronto.

Michael Durland

MINI REVIEWS

by Pat Thompson

THE ORDINARY BATH

Some xylophone music and some bubbles, and it’s off to the fantasy land for children created by writer Dennis Lee and artist Jon McKee. A small boy is left to play for a while in the bath before bedtime. Narrator Lee informs us that the lad is no fool as he announces, “Always splash, that’s what water is for.” Then he adds that the boy “knew how to turn on the taps,” and proceeds to do so. The winged Bathtub Creature comes out of the tap, and it’s sort of fun – the boy, his duchess of a creature having a good time. But then the Nasties start to rush from the tap – oozing, roaring, and shimmying. One stank, one was covered with lumps which had faces, and another exploded “Why did I turn on that tap?” moans the boy – but do not despair, the duck saves the day.

A cunning little gem from Mirus, that may appeal to be animated but, in reality, Jon McKee’s drawings for the book are moved and manipulated to give them life and, combined with some lively, driving music and imaginative sound effects, things really swing along. Of course, Dennis Lee’s language is gorgeous – the beauties hopping/slinking/humping and bumpy and globular and bumpy.

The film was enthusiastically received by hundreds of tiny tots at its premiere in Toronto’s Royal Ontario Museum, on the launchings festivities of the 1985 Children’s Book Festival in November.


In October the Audio-Visual Dept. of the Mississauga (near Toronto) Library System had the happy idea of putting on for four evenings, all-ages-produced films from Sheridan College (both Animation and Media Arts Departments), York University and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

...and so the programs began.

THE ORGASMIC BATH

A xylophone melody, singers, variously, a woman in a siren suit and a man with a pole dancing in the bathtub, two men with clothes hangers and other drawings.

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