

VANCOUVER VISTAS

by Eric Green

Late in 1985, B.C.'s provincial government took a giant step toward the creation of a major movie studio, announcing that the B.C. Development Corporation would begin conducting detailed design work and negotiating with film industry representatives and potential tenants. An estimated \$300,000 has been committed to the consulting work involved.

In making the announcement, the government said it intends a joint, venture development in collaboration with the industry. Local 891 of IATSE responded by sending a letter to BCDC indicating it has set aside \$250,000 "with a view to investing in a structured partnership of the kind proposed." The union recognizes that a major studio is a vital component of its long-term plan to strengthen B.C.'s position within the international film industry.

The proposed complex would include a large, low-cost, effects stage. At least one smaller sound stage is included, with the potential for adding several more, should the demand call for it. The complex would also include rental accommodation for the wide variety of types of companies involved — offices, meetings rooms and, subject to design and demand, of course, rehearsal rooms and other amenities. Leasable space is expected to take up about 100,000 square feet. The goal is to provide space at \$5 per square foot.

One potential site is the well-reported Dominion Bridge facility in Burnaby. Most industry spokespeople feel this location is ideal. A variety of other facilities are also being looked at, including the former Park and Tilford brewery buildings in North Vancouver.

Pre-development is expected to be complete by the end of February. If the BCDC's analysis says "go", a government spokesman said, then work could begin in the Spring.

In its giddy news release, the provincial government (which is expected to call an election some time in 1986) via Industry and Small Business Development minister Bob McClelland said, "Movie-making has become a major industry in British Columbia. The development of a modern, state-of-the-art studio is now needed if this industry is to reach its full economic potential."

The Fourth Annual Vancouver

International Film Festival will be held May 21-June 26 this year, but without festival director and founder Leonard Sc-

hein who's off to take over directing the Toronto Fest..

Over 30 directors, producers and performers will be brought in for the event from Pacific Rim countries (Australia, Japan and other nations), as well as from Europe and North America.

For cinema people

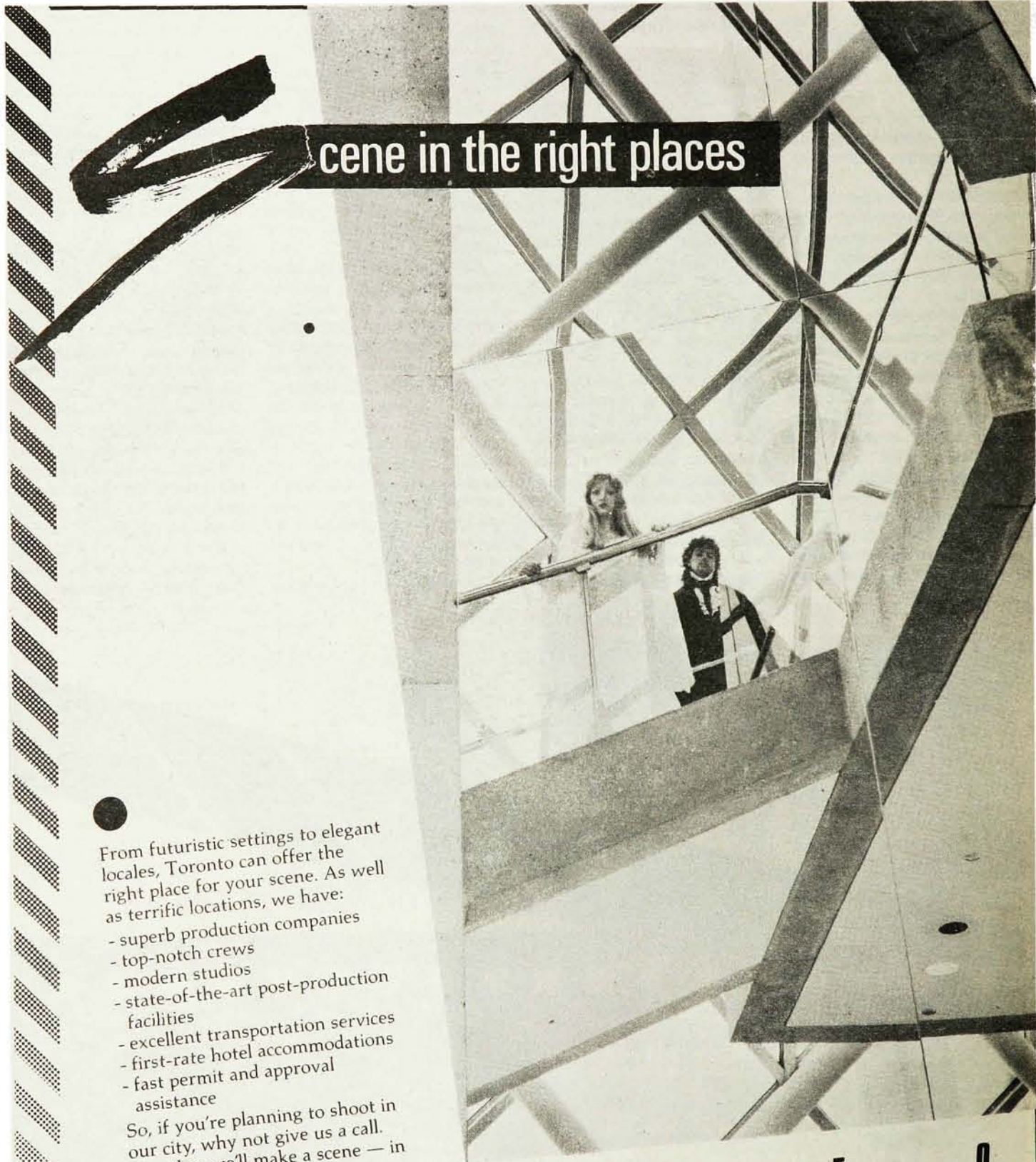
everywhere, the event is a good excuse to come and visit Vancouver during Expo in one of the nicer times of the year in Lotus land.

Japanese producers began filming in Alberta recently on a television series called *The Rice*.

Producer Akio Kitazawa works for the Fuji Television Network Inc. of Tokyo. Vancouver coordinator and contact is Kojiro Mukai of TCS Tours Canada Inc.

Other segments, other series will be shot in eastern Canada.

cont. on p. 41



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Vancouver *cont. from p. 40*

Mike Rachmil has taken control over the Dominion Bridge facility from Jan. 6 to Oct. 1 to film three features.

Tripwire Productions Ltd. of Los Angeles will shoot *Tripwire*, *Roxanne* and *The Limit*, with principal photography on *Tripwire* beginning March 17. Director of this film is

Jonathon Betuel. *Roxanne* will be shot in the Whistler Ski Resort area in the summer. Rachmill was producer on the feature *Runaway*, shot in Vancouver, starring Tom Selleck.

B.C. unions have 14 signed pre-production agreements to start 1986 off right. All of these will get underway on or before the end of June 1986.

Disney's Lorin Salob will

take over Panorama Studios from Jan. 27 right up until the wrecker's ball levels it early in the summer. Disney will produce two feature films, and there is the possibility of a third.

There were more than 800 people gathered to say bye-bye to the soon-to-disappear Panorama Studios Jan. 25.

The entire film industry in

B.C., and from elsewhere, gathered at the studios for the party. There were a few sniffles and teary eyes as industry people recalled experiences associated with the facility.

Could it be that they were crying out of frustration because Panorama, when it was built, was touted as the foundation of a great new "Hollywood North"? The fact that it never lived up to its billing causes

some alarm in the industry here when people talk about the commitments being made for a new professional studio complex.

The powers-that-be can expect enormous pressure from western interests in the industry to continue the move to more indigenous production. The good news about CBC's commitment to independent production (50% by Sept. 1987) could be the jump-start that helps this process happen.

Western film industry people are ecstatic about the pressures being brought politically on the great 'Canadian broadcasting castration' to stop creating expensive sinecures for producers who more frequently than not can't be bothered to answer letters from 'proposers.'

Now, if we can get a national commission to investigate why the most lucrative national network, CTV, has hired almost no talent in the west (and precious little elsewhere) in 25 years, and made fewer deals with independent Canadian producers, then perhaps we can start to see some of the cash trickling, but preferably pouring, out to the people who buy the products of the people who advertise on that network.

Samuel Lount, *My American Cousin* and *Overnight* all appeared as part of the Genie Awards screenings in Vancouver as of Jan. 2.

Elvira Lount's film opened for a limited engagement at the Ridge Theatre after a barrage of publicity in the province. Critics have been very positive.

Sandy Wilson's *My American Cousin* continued its run in Vancouver while its creators rested up after a similar barrage of publicity in the middle of the fall. Jack Darcus' new feature *Overnight* was seen for the first time at the Genie presentations.

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For more information call the Alberta Film Industry Development Office at (403) 427-2005.

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OTTAWA — A re-examination of the 100% capital cost allowance is underway and the department of Communications is looking for "alternative incentives for stimulating investment in the Canadian film industry."

The Request for Proposal which has been issued to researchers states that an "entire new universe" has been created since the CCA first was applied and that it is now only one factor among many. Hoping that new tax incentives may also be applicable to the recording industry, the study should "determine what role tax incentives should continue to play and what types of incentives are most appropriate."