What is clear in “Facultés affaiblies” is that premeditated murder is more in keeping with the nature of the crime. In the United States, to drive while intoxicated constitutes a refusal to consider the consequences, the Americans have a particular amendment that was passed in Canada last December 4. As one judge explains, “Too many people have seen first-hand the effects of highway fatalities and drunk driving.”

In spite of its complex legal jargon, “Facultés affaiblies” draws the viewer smoothly into the public issue of highway accidents with dramatic courtroom scenes and a series of dramatic courtroom manoeuvres, such as the defence lawyer’s argument that the deaths were accidental, the use of plea bargain to lessen the burden of the victim’s family. As the cases unfold, real feelings of anger and revenge invariably lead to helplessness. When the verdict is read, reaction shots of the family members are given in a serious moment of contemplation.

Implicit in “Facultés affaiblies” is a cause-and-effect relation between social conditioning and the problem of drunk driving. Until recent years, consumption of alcohol has been an acceptable form of behaviour but society has had to change the way in which it handles intoxicated drivers.

If the first three programs utilize cinéma direct style to depict three levels of extreme emotion, the fourth episode, “Routes à suivre,” draws from existing situations (such as the trial of Kevin Cogin) and presents its conclusions in a subjective, editorial manner.

For a topic that is prone to morose contemplation, directors Raoul Fox and Ken McCready depict highway safety in “Routes à suivre” as a positive, action-oriented issue that should concern both the individual and the legal system. A combination of direct, journalistic and “documentary” device that offers the individual a choice in travel, mobility and a status-symbol of wealth and power. Automobile is also a weapon in hands of the driver who does not obey highway safety. The underlying theme of “Routes à suivre” is the responsibility of the public and legal sector, automobile manufacturers and the individual. Hit by numerous and expensive lawsuits by individuals in the last few years, both the public and the legal system have finally realized that a lower speed limit, tests being conducted in existing situations (such as the trial of Kevin Cogin) and presents its conclusions in a subjective, editorial manner.

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The Heart Is A Lonely Monitor d. Marcia Houston p.c. CBC, Calgary
16mm, 29 mins., video

Winner Best Script, Special Jury Award for Best Commercial

This tender, intimate portrait of a middle-aged woman wrestling with death by cancer is based on the life of Ann Mortifee, the wife of musician Harry Belafonte. When Ann is diagnosed with cancer, she and her husband, who is also a battle, decide to resist the role of victim. Instead of seeking out the benefits of a cancer hospital, they choose to live life to the fullest until the end. This film is a beautiful testament to love, courage, and the power of hope.

At The Crossroads d. Roger Mather p.c. Frame 30 Productions
16mm, 16 mins.

Winner Best Documentary Short

At the Crossroads is a powerful and moving film that explores the challenges faced by Alberta farmers in the face of economic crisis. This film highlights the resilience and strength of these farmers as they struggle to maintain their livelihood and keep their farms in operation. Through interviews and footage from the farmers' lives, the film provides a glimpse into the daily struggles of these farmers and their families. At The Crossroads is a must-see for anyone interested in the agricultural sector or in stories of community resilience.

Best of the fests – AMPIA '86

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Symphony d. Fred Fox p.c. Sunwapta Broadcasting Ltd.
16mm, 60 mins., video

Winner Best Commercial

This film is a delightful and hilarious send-up of the classical music world. It follows a group of musical purists as they attempt to stage a symphony concert, only to have their plans thwarted by various misadventures. The film is a perfect example of how the power of humor can be harnessed to highlight serious issues. A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Symphony is a must-see for anyone who loves music or just wants a good laugh.


Winner Best Script

Rise and Shine is a poignant and powerful film that explores the life of a young woman with cancer. The film follows her journey as she faces the challenges of treatment and the emotional toll it takes on her family. Through her experiences, the film highlights the importance of hope, resilience, and the support of loved ones. Rise and Shine is a must-see for anyone interested in the impact of cancer on individuals and families.

Storm d. David Winning p.c. Grounds for Pictures
16mm, 40 mins.

Winner Best Film

Storm is a gripping and thought-provoking film that explores the devastating impact of a hurricane on a small coastal town. The film follows the lives of the town's inhabitants as they struggle to survive in the aftermath of the storm. Through its powerful storytelling and stunning visuals, Storm highlights the resilience and strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity. This film is a must-see for anyone interested in the impact of natural disasters on communities.