



e've been blessed with an early spring this year in the Atlantic Provinces. The pale faces of filmmakers who spent the winter in isolation bent over their Steenbecks can be seen wandering Argyle Street and bent over cups of coffee in the Athens. Quite a number of such pale but hopeful souls were recently at a meeting sponsored by the NFB with NFB president and government film commissioner François Macerola. Billed as an opportunity to present briefs, views, ideas, etc. on the role and future of the NFB, it drew a wide spectrum of the film/video community from throughout the Atlantic Provinces

Ken Pittman, from Newfoundland, spoke about the relationship of the NFB, CBC, and Telefilm and emphasized the great importance of regional autonomy in allowing creative ideas to be realized. Cordell Wynne, from Halifax, addressed the issue of training and development in the region and in particular projects such as PAPFFS grants, Dramalab, and the support the NFB gives to the regional film co-ops. Brian Pollard from P.E.I. discussed the NFB's role in employing local filmmakers. Gordon Parsons, impressario of Wormwoods Dog and Monkey Cinema (really, I'm not kidding, that's what it's called) spoke from the perspective of the exhibitor dealing with the constant stream of American film and added a Marxist flavour to the proceedings when he called for a "repatriation of our means of projection." Finally Margaret Conrod from Acadia University spoke on Canadian cultural sovereignty. Discussions were animated and showed the considerable interest that the local film community has in the role and involvement of the NFB in both the production and exhibition sectors of this region.

Lots of interesting projects are in various states of development. In Newfoundland preproduction for Finding Mary March continues with shares of the production being sold through investment brokers. Director Ken Pittman told me that he should be prepared to give the final go ahead by the middle of May. Gordon Pinsent's John and the Missus is in the final stages of preproduction and is set for a sevenweek shoot beginning in late May in Newfoundland. Also in preproduction is The New

Poverty a kind of "dramudoca" (the opposite of a "docudrama": a film which seems a conventional interview-type documentary but which is really a scripted drama) film about poverty in Newfoundland. The latter is being directed by Vancouverite Debbie McGee who has be ome a transplant to Newford and (moving from "lotus-lanu 10 "the rock" is an event extraordinary enough in itself to deserve a documentary).

Hubert Schurmann of Hol-

low Reed Productions in Nova Scotia's verdant Annapolis Valley is in the thick of production with Lulu Keating of Red Snapper (watch out for its bite!) Films on an NFB production called Women Entrepreneurs which looks at the new ways in which women are becoming involved in the business world. He is also continuing to work on an NFB-assisted production called South Mountain which examines the rural poor of the Annapolis valley who earn their livelihood as agricultural workers. They live in appalling cir-

cene in the right places

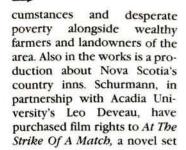
From futuristic settings to elegant locales, Toronto can offer the right place for your scene. As well as terrific locations, we have: - superb production companies

- top-notch crews
- modern studios
- state-of-the-art post-production
- excellent transportation services - first-rate hotel accommodations
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- assistance

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on "the rock" and are investigating shooting this dramatic production on Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula sometime in 1987.

Both on Prince Edward Island and in Halifax Brian Pollard is continuing work on Farmers Helping Farmers, an NFB production shot in November and December of last year in Kenva and Tanzania. It is a film about a group of farmers on P.E.I. who assist and participate in exchanges with farmers in that part of Africa. Meanwhile Jack McAndrew of Points East Productions on the island is also involved with several projects including a one-hour special for CBC television on the Voy-

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age of the Bluenose to Expo '86 in Vancouver. Sounds like a nice excuse to visit the Panama Canal. Also in production is a half-hour situation comedy which is co-produced with ATV and a drama with CBC Halifax.

In the field of education, impressario Charlotte Harper, recently back from the NFB's

Dramalab project has organized two much needed workshops for the area's film community. "Acting For the Camera" and "Acting and Directing" will be led by Academy Award winning (Best Short Drama, 1983) director Don McBreaty following on the success of his workshop here last September. The surge of activity in dramatic productions in the region has generated a considerable interest on the part of the community for possibilities of adding to their skills in this area.

Workprint, the newsletter started by the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-op, has expanded its coverage and now serves as a medium of communication for the Centre For Art Tapes and the Nova Scotia Photo Coop as well. Plans are underway to give it a new format, the aim being to upgrade its quality both visually and as resource. Meanwhile at the Atlantic Filmmaker's Co-op Glen Walton is drawing close to completing his film, The Nova Scotia Song, a musical documentary with and about Nova Scotia folklorist and song collector extraordinaire Helen Creighton. Plans are to have it ready for release by early in May. More on this in a future issue.

London market bio

LONDON - One of the major international television sales markets, the London Market reports 90 per cent of its exhibition space already sold for the 1986 event to be held Nov. 3.7.

CFI first for grant from Ontario Film Devel.

OTTAWA - The locally-based Canadian Film Institute, which provides services to both the film industry and filmgoing public, became the first recipient in late April of the Special Project professional development grant to be handed out by the Ontario Film Development Corporation.

The CFI received the grant to co-produce, with Ottawa's Algonquin College, the sixth annual Summer Institute of Film and Television, a weeklong presentation of seminars, lectures, and screenings held June 22-27 at Algonquin for film and television industry professionals interested on honing their skills and exchanging information.

Still to be announced at presstime by the OFDC were its first financial commitments in its Development and Production programs.

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