

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

Paper Marriage, a \$2 million action-comedy, started shooting July 2 in Edmonton after a morning ceremony of roast pig, incense-burning and sun salutations.

The privately funded feature stars Sammo Hung, described by production supervisor Arvi Liimatainen as "the most popular movie star in southeast Asia," heading a cast of 14

Canadian and 17 Hong Kong performers. The Boho Film Alberta production, also featuring world champion kick boxer Billy Chow, is directed by Kin Ting (Alfred) Cheung, with Peter Choi as executive producer and Louis Sit as producer. Bette Chadwick of the Other Agency Casting Limited

handled the Canadian casting on the story of a couple's immigration adventures. The crew, a mix from Canada and Hong Kong, will work locations ranging from the West Edmonton Mall to the Northlands Park racetrack during the five-week shoot.

Meanwhile, Penta One's

Hamilton's Quest continues its summer shoot of ten episodes in Calgary, including footage at the Calgary Stampede. Principal photography began June 2 on the contemporary family drama about a young man's search for his birth parents. Line producer/production manager Doug MacLeod heads the freelance crew, among them John Blackie (recent winner of an AMPIA Award for **To Set Our House in Order**), working out of CFCN's Studio III in Calgary.

Ron Orioux is director of photography, and directors are Arvi Liimatainen, Neill Fearnley, Boon Collins, Randy Bradshaw and Peter D. Marshall (doubling as 1st assistant director). Cast includes John Ferguson, Don Francks, Maureen Thomas, Douglas Riske, and Elan Ross Gibson.

Scheduled to start August 5 for seven weeks in Edmonton is **The Haunting of Hamilton High**, a black comedy to be directed by Bruce Pittman (Oscar-nominated for **The Painted Door**) and produced by Peter Simpson for Higher Education Film Productions Inc. Casting for the screenplay by Ron Oliver was headed by Bette Chadwick in Edmonton, Lucinda Sill in Toronto and Sid Kozak in Vancouver. Production coordinator is Cheryl Skoreyko; production manager is Bob Wertheimer and art director is Sandy Kydarts.

Alberta filmmakers were high profile at the Banff Television Festival May 25 to 31, bolstered by AMPDC support, and further promoted by press conferences and screenings.

The newly formed National Screen Institute - Canada announced plans for Dramalab Phase III, a television series of half-hour dramas, to be shot in the five regions of Canada. Titled **The Border**, the anthology series focussing on personalities and communities along the Canada/U.S. border is being developed in conjunction with the CBC, Telefilm Canada and ATEC (Association for Tele-Education in Canada). National Screen Institute's executive director Tom Radford and Janis Platt (chairperson, national steering committee) also announced the board of directors from almost all major centres in Canada, with the curious exception of Calgary. Ambitions of the Institute include training new generations of Canadian writers, producers, directors and actors in film, television and radio drama, and the development and promotion of indigenous storytelling from Canada's various regions.

THE PEOPLE

"Recent activity...is testament to the creative spunk of the local film community."
Bob Remington, EDMONTON JOURNAL

Alberta producers, starting with AMPDC "seed" money, completed twelve projects by June '86—three theatrical features and nine tv projects.

THE PLACES

"...a beautiful environment, a cinematographer's dream with long hours of crisp, clean light."
Linda Kupecek, CALGARY HERALD

Alberta's stunning sky and diverse geography has a glowing reputation with leading cinematographers.

THE PROJECTS

The ALBERTA MOTION PICTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION loans "seed" money to commercially viable film-and-video projects.

The AMPDC has already committed development loans to more than 50 projects, including documentaries, theatrical and tv programs.

THE ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

WORTH THE PHONE CALL

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Eda Lishman, president of the Producers Limited in Calgary, hosted a light-hearted press conference with punning party favours (beer can-openers) to announce the opening of Cali Film Distributors Inc. The Calgary-based company will be headed by Eric James, with shareholders including Marie Hoy, president of Cori Films International Ltd. in Los Angeles. Cali Films, committed to western Canadian film, will be looking for television features and one hours from western producers, as well as sharing the Cori library, and maintaining offices in L.A., London and Tokyo.

The Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation played host, mentor and guardian angel to Albertans at the festival, while promoting the 12 projects completed by the summer of '86. While AMPDC president Lorne MacPherson revelled in the praises heaped on Anne Wheeler's AMPDC-assisted feature **Loyalties** at Cannes, vice-president Caryl Brandt kept tabs on visiting producers, and board members Tom Peacocke and Orville Kope played host in the hospitality suite. Alberta producers at the festival included Anne Wheeler (with a private sneak preview of **Loyalties**);

Arvi Liimatainen (**Good Times at the Rainbow Bar and Grill**); Allan Stein (Alberta link for Alliance, now fielding scripts and offers); Frances Damberger (aggressively screening his promising film about teenage suicide, **On the Edge**); Wendy Wacko (**Mountain Men**); Michael Douglas, Douglas Communications; and Albert Karvonen, king of wildlife films. Super-efficient Brandt lists projects that have benefitted from a foray to Banff: **Brothel, Connecting** (the award-winning teen talk series from HBW/Toth Co-Productions in Calgary), **Draw!, Grizzlies of the Great Divide, The Journey, The Little Vampire, Loyalties, Mountain Men, Riders of the Savage Land, Striker's Mountain, Studhorse Man, Tel, John Ware's Cow Country, and Poker Night**. Meanwhile, Simon and Jennifer Peer with Tom Dodd were playing for high stakes with **The Saint Game**, a promising project looking for funding, and award-winning doc filmmaker Reevean Dolgoy was flogging **Tickets**, a project in development about a man who has to choose between love and money while trying to rip off the lottery. Multi-talented Douglas Berquist zoomed in from Calgary, fresh from a

Montreal meeting of film and video co-ops from across Canada, while in the initial stages of talks with Czechoslovakia on a Hans Christian Anderson story.

Dale Hardy, vice-president of Vicom in Edmonton, reports the opening of a new editing suite, bringing Vicom's talents to 15,000 sq. ft., three studios, three editing suites with ADO Chyron graphics and two cycloramas, as well as the only Betacam editing suite in Alberta. An open house in June celebrated the eighth year of operation for the video company, with 18 employees and a track record of over 500 commercial, industrial and sponsored videos.

A Sick Call, the last of 26 half-hours done as NFB/Atlantis co-productions for Bell Canada Playhouse, was lensed in Edmonton the week of June 15. Co-producers Dale Philips and Janis Platt and director Harvey Spak expected completion of the \$175,000 episode by July 31. Cast included Jay Smith and Elan Ross Gibson. Other Atlantis productions lensed with the NFB in Edmonton were **To Set**

Our House in Order, Cages, John Cat and Hot Walker.

The Golden Sheaf Award, a semi-buried treasure in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, will shine again October 29 to November 2. The effervescent Sheila Harris has been promoting the event here and there at festivals. Canadian producers are invited to participate in the 1986 Festival, seminars and workshops of the 22nd anniversary of the Yorkton Short Film and Video festival Inc. And don't forget the adventure of the excursion to Yorkton, where hospitality awaits the weary traveller.

Edmonton actress Elan Ross Gibson has been elected president of the NorthWest Media Network Guild... John Scott tours the country as usual, working as stunt coordinator on **Greater Alarm** in Vancouver, and **Summer Rites** in Ontario, as well as working national commercials and the Calgary Stampede in early July... **Ranch**, a film by Steven Denure and Christopher Lowry on the Alan Wood Ranch Project, a massive environmental art-piece built on 320 acres in the Alberta foothills, is now available for distribution from Wacko Productions... Henry Chatenay has wrapped **Sharing**, a 24-minute independent production for

Voices, the Physically Challenged, in Calgary... Former Alberta Premier the Hon. Peter Lougheed has been appointed a director of CFCN Communications Limited... CBC national television cameraman Herb Tyler was reportedly arrested (for a traffic offense) at a demonstration by striking Gainer's workers, at (surprise) the very moment he was shooting scenes of police arresting trade-unionists.

King wins once again

MOUNT FREEDOM, NEW JERSEY - **The King of Friday Night!**, a two-award winner at last fall's 1985 CFTA awards and the recipient of honours from four other North American festivals, added a seventh win June 13 with its capture of the best feature-music category at the 1985 Television Movie Awards.

The Canamedia Productions Ltd. effort has been sold for home video this fall in Britain (with marketing under the Cannon label), as well as a 1987 broadcast on the U.K.'s Channel 4 TV network. Further sales of the program to the U.S., Europe, Australia, and South America were reported in mid-June by Canamedia to be nearing conclusion.



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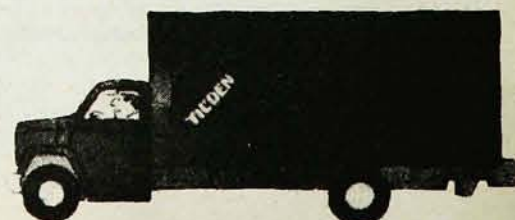
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