

# "B" fest brings the worst

TORONTO – The first ever 'B' festival promises to bring some of the worst and most bizarre movies and videos to Toronto as a counterpoint to this year's Festival of Festivals.

Organizers Rob Salem, a *Toronto Star* writer, and Chris Holland, a *Toronto Star* and *T.O. Magazine* columnist, dub the 'B' Festival a celebration of schlock. Ten late-night screening parties will be held from Sept. 4 to 13 at Toronto's Big Shop night club.

The 'B' Festival will offer nightly movies themes which include a look at the work of Edward D. Wood Jr. who has made such classics as *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, hailed by some as the worst film of all time. Other Wood classics that will be shortened down to about 20-minute segments each include *Bride of the Monster* and *The Violent Years*.

Another night, titled *By the Rockets Red Glare*, will feature American propaganda films and clips, a collection of Ronald Reagan out-takes and commercials and U.S. public service films and announcements. Other nights will feature themes such as exotic music videos and a look at the

subgenre of cut-rate biker movies.

Salem said the idea for the 'B' Festival started after six years of covering the Festival of Festivals when he would go home at night after galas and parties and show friends a collection of the worst and rare in films.

He said the 'B' Festival grew out of that tradition. Salem added, however, it is not just the worst in film and video that will be shown.

"Basically we are trying to go with things people have never seen or not seen for a long time," he said.

A variety of videos will be shown at the 'B' Festival including *Max Headroom: The Video*. *Max Headroom* is the sculpted-looking television screen character who is appearing in the most recent Coca-Cola ads across North America. It will be the first time the video is shown in Canada.

Leonard Schein, director of the Festival of Festivals, has lent his support to the 'B' Festival, which is to become an annual event.

"We are confident that the 'B' Festival will provide an entertaining and exciting counterpoint to the regular Festival schedule..." Schein says in a written statement. Salem said the 'B' Festival, which he hopes will be a profit making project, has no direct connection with the Festival of Festivals, but added: "We like to think of ourselves as the Festival's faithful teenage sidekick."

## Quandt to program

TORONTO – Harbourfront has a new film programmer following the departure of Hannah Fisher, who has taken up the post of Vancouver Film Festival director.

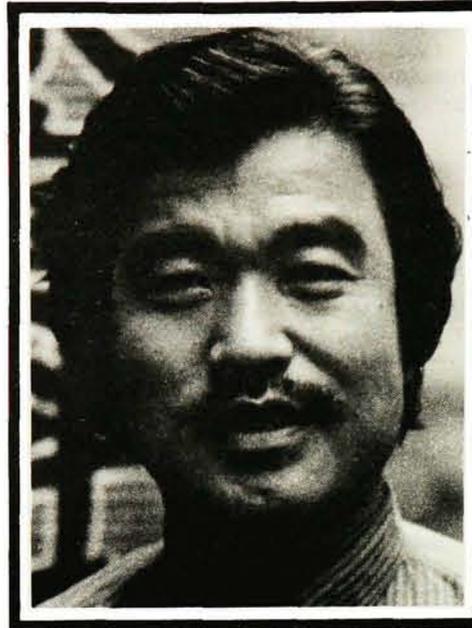
James Quandt, acting film programmer at Harbourfront since July 1985, has been named to take over from Fisher, who was programmer at Harbourfront for nine years.

Quandt, when acting programmer, co-ordinated several film series, which include *Basque Cinema*, *Contemporary Swedish Cinema*, *New French Cinema*, *Direct from Japan*, *Films of Eric Rohmer* and the *Films of Liliana Cavani*.

Quandt has published articles on various film directors, film festivals and Quebec cinema. He has been editor of the *Canadian Federation of Film Societies Newsletter* since 1980.

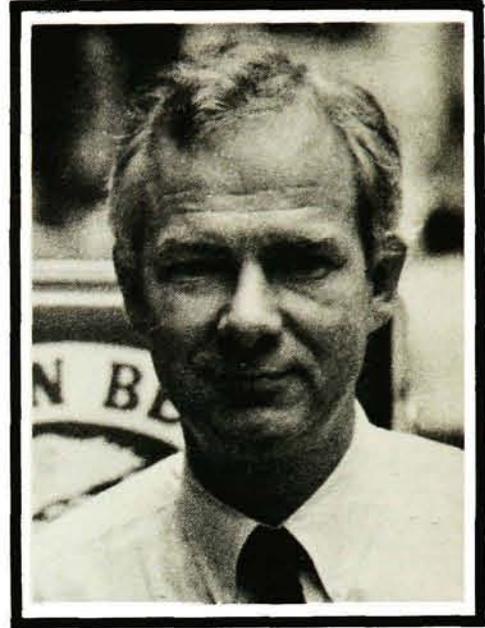
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