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## Mankiewicz takes on Cinevideo

MONTREAL – Film director Francis Mankiewicz has filed a \$260,000 law suit against the National Film Board, Cinévidéo Inc. and Justine Héroux, president of Cinévidéo.

In a March 12 application to the Quebec Supreme Court, Mankiewicz claims that all three parties did not honour the director's first right of refusal on the film **Les Fous de Bassan**.

Furthermore, Mankiewicz claims that Héroux and Cinévidéo did not negotiate in good faith with him.

In 1982 Mankiewicz, then a full-time employee of the NFB, acquired the film rights **Les Fous de Bassan** a novel by Anne Hebert.

In an effort to support private sector film production and because of the expense of

the film, already developed to an extent by Mankiewicz, the NFB sold the screen rights to Montreal-based Cinévidéo with a promise to include the director's first right of refusal as a condition of sale.

Mankiewicz resigned from the NFB in order to support this condition of sale.

A contract between Cinévidéo and Mankiewicz had not been signed when Cinévidéo hired screenwriter Sheldon Chad to work on an English version during the summer of 1985. Sometime later, a French translation of Chad's screenplay was ordered by the pro-

ducer and Yves Simoneau was hired as director. Shooting started in the Spring of 1987 without Mankiewicz.

Mankiewicz is claiming \$135,000 in lost director's fees, \$100,000 in lost revenues from the NFB and other contracts, and \$25,000 in moral damages.

Among the more popular films directed by Mankiewicz are **Les bons débarras**, (1980) the winner of eight Genies including best director, best film; **Les Beaux souvenirs** (1981, NFB), and **Le temps d'une chasse** (1972).

## Specialties held

OTTAWA – The federal broadcast regulator has again delayed the application deadline for licenses to run specialty television networks.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) postponed the deadline from March 12 to April 30, 1987.

The CRTC wants submissions for new specialty networks such as all news services, teleshopping, youth, family, religious, health and music services.

The commission said it decided to postpone the deadline following requests from applicants and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

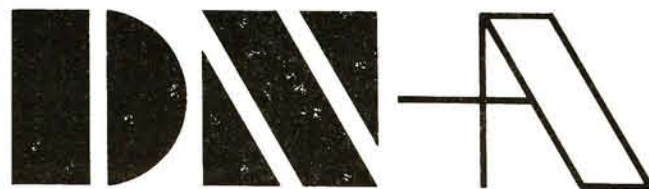
"While the consideration of these applications, which in some cases have been before us for close to three years, remains a high priority, this reasonable delay will, in our view, be of benefit to the applicants, the public, the interested parties and ultimately the Canadian broadcasting system..." CRTC chairman André Bureau said.

"The new deadline for submitting applications for specialty services will allow the applicants sufficient time to meet the requirements set last August in the original call." Bureau said in a written statement.

The original deadline was Oct. 24, 1986. The commission later set a new deadline of March 12, 1987 following announced changes in access to the Canadian Broadcast Development Fund outlined by Flora MacDonald, the federal minister of Communications.

## David Novek et associés

Public Relations/Relations publiques



400, rue Saint-Jacques  
Bureau 205  
Montréal, Québec H2Y 1S1  
Télex: 05-25134  
Fax: (514) 284-3283

(514) 284-2113

## Ontario court sends RSL, DGC to arbitration

TORONTO – The Ontario Supreme Court has ruled RSL Entertainment Corporation must submit to arbitration regarding fees paid the director of the movie **Heavenly Bodies**.

Supreme Court Justice Potts made the decision March 11, 1987 in a case initiated by the Directors Guild of Canada on behalf of director Larry Dane.

Part of the case revolved around the corporate relationship between RSL and MovieCorp VIII, the company incorporated to produce **Heavenly Bodies**.

Directors Guild president John Juliani said the decision could have important ramifications for the movie industry in Canada.

"This decision is significant for the film industry in general as it points out that the courts will not tolerate artificial dealings between the real producer and the shell company it incorporates," Juliani said in a written release.

Robert Lantos, speaking on behalf of RSL, said it is a matter before an arbitration committee in which no decision had been reached. Arbitration will decide the case, he said, calling this a "classic non-story" made into a story.

The DGC hails the judge's decision to send RSL into arbitration over commitments made by MovieCorp VIII. RSL, on the other hand, considers the process incomplete until the results of the arbitration are known.

Directors Guild lawyer Michael Bergman said the current decision could be an important benchmark for the Canadian film industry.

Bergman said the implication is that the courts are willing to look at the reality of feature film making in Canada.

He added guilds and unions should look down the road to collective agreements that contain clauses that capture who is the real parent corpora-

tion. As well, producers should be aware of the ramifications of setting up smaller companies within a parent company, Bergman said.

The court also ordered RSL and MovieCorp VIII to pay the DGC and Dane costs on a solicitor-client basis.

The judge gave 30 days in which delegates or a single arbitrator was to be appointed.

Dane is president of Canart Films Limited and was both co-writer and director of **Heavenly Bodies**.

TORONTO – Cindy Hamon-Hill is the new director of development for Atlantis Films Ltd. responsible for acquiring and developing various film and television projects. Hamon-Hill joined Atlantis in 1982.

Michael MacMillan, president of Atlantis Films Ltd., made the announcement, effective immediately.

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