

FRONTS WEST

by Kathryn Allison

March seems to have been dedicated to the American Film Market, with everyone busy preparing to go down to Los Angeles or recovering from having been there. Those of us who were left behind could only imagine the din of television moguls screaming. "Buy, buy! No - sell, sell!" echoing through those Beverly Hills hotel corridors. But with all the regulars away, there was time to discover something new and, quite possibly, very wild on the Vancouver film scene.

Talk Art Productions Ltd. is a local production company which has been around since 1984, but hasn't received much attention in spite of its refreshing, stylish approach to entertainment. The first I heard of it was through Phil Savath who is currently working on a new wave action comedy for them called **Ricochet**. Telefilm is in on the development of the feature which Talk Art producer John Conti describes as a classic fugitive story in the style of **Repo Man**, **After Hours** and **Something Wild**.

The intriguing thing about the project is the eclectic mix of talent it is attracting. Peter Breck (Nick on **The Big Valley**) and Jello Biafra (lead singer of the **Dead Kennedys**) are the leads. Tobias Schliesler, talented local cinematographer, will be director of photography, and Jim Knowles (**Time Bandit**, **Dune**) will head the art department. The

soundtrack won't be muzak - Conti has **DOA** committed to writing a couple of original songs, and Jim Cummings (**I Braineater** and **No Means No**) will also lend their talents to the track. It's no surprise that Conti and co-producer David Heffel will make a rock video to accompany the \$1.2 million film. With Telefilm and Cineplex-Odeon showing strong interest in the feature, it's got some powerful allies in financing and distribution. They plan to shoot it in July.

Talk Art also has an interest in experimental low-budget gore movies in the style of Ray Denis Steckler's **Rat Fink A Boo Boo** and Herschel Gordon Lewis' **Blood Feast**. It looks like it's going to be a fun summer...

Zorah Productions is also busy. Two features in development (a murder mystery called **Killing Mr. Griffin** and producer Ed Richardson's personal favourite, a drama called **Green Sky**) and has already found distribution for a comedy series with ex-Edmontonian Bob Comfort.

Phil Savath is also writing for Northern Lights Media. He has just finished the first draft of an adaptation of Morley Torgov's novel **The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick**.

Producer Stephen Foster hopes to shoot the \$1.5 million feature in Manitoba next fall. Richard Davis (the transplanted Australian who's involved with Petra Films' feature **Visa**) is line producer on

**Glick**. Financial participants are BCTV, CBC-Winnipeg and Telefilm Canada.

Northern Lights is also developing a half hour sitcom with CBC Vancouver and Telefilm. **Jingles** is set in Vancouver and deals with the

"early and crazy days in building a jingle company." It's being scripted by Myles Ramsey and Peter Clarke.

Primetime Productions (Geoff Groberman) is shooting a three-part comedy pilot in April called **Comedy College**.

Writer Phil Savath describes it as a new kind of comedy show that involves stand up comics and audience participation, with prizes thrown in. The concept was tried live at Expo last summer to enthusiastic response.

CONGRATULATIONS

and

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Film Production

The Department of Cinema of the Faculty of Fine Arts, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, announces a probationary tenure-track position in FILM PRODUCTION at the starting rank of Assistant Professor, to begin with the academic year 1987-88. Duties include full-time teaching responsibilities within our undergraduate Major and Specialization in Film Production, and a contribution to the administration of the programme and the Department. The successful candidate will also be expected to maintain artistic productivity during the appointment.

Teaching experience, a demonstrated interest in arts other than cinema, and bilingualism will all be considered assets as will such possible qualifications as expertise in relevant areas of Film Production, experimental cinema, etc.

We are looking for a creative person and inspired teacher-artist who will contribute to the further development of a leading university programme in Film Production in Canada. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, preference is given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Vita and inquiries should be addressed to Associate Professor André Herman, Head of Film Production, Department of Cinema, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, VA-259, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8. The deadline is May 1st, 1987 or until the position is filled.