

MONTREAL — Films "made-in-Quebec" occupied 10 per cent of the screen-time in the province this year for the first time since 1974. As a result, seven Quebec-based distributors of Quebec films have shared a total of \$150,000 from the Société générale du cinéma du

Québec as a result of its "automatic aid" program.

The provincial funding agency for film and television has invested this money in companies that have used SGCQ Film Funding.

The money is divided according to percentage of box office returns from films in which the SGCQ has participated.

The recipients are: Cinéma Libre (\$277.54), Cinéma Plus Inc. (\$39,488.79), Ciné 360 Inc. (\$6,699.29), Les Films René Malo Inc. (\$86,706.15), Prima Film Inc. (\$167.73), Provifilms Inc. (\$1,465.44), Vivafilm Inc. (\$15,195.06).

The films which garnered the largest box-offices were The

Young Magician and Bach and Brocolli for Cinéma Plus, Anne Trister for Ciné 360, Le Déclin for René Malo, and Pouvoir intime and Le Matou for Vivafilm.

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Two Quebec films currently in production have received a total of \$618,346 from the SGCQ.

Duluth et. Saint-Urbain, the second feature co-directed by François Bouvier and Jean Beaudry (winners of le Prix de la Société générale du cinéma du Québec, 1986) has received \$600,000 while **Dans l'ombre de nous**, an experimental black-and-white short film written and directed by Guylaine Roy, has received \$18,346.

Kid Brother launches new prod/dist co.

MONTREAL – Claude Gagnon, director of **The Kid Brother**, a Canada/Japan co-venture which won top prize at the Montreal World Film Festival (1987), has announced the formation of Aska Films International Inc. and Aska Films Distribution Inc.

Formerly known as Yoshimura-Gagnon Inc., the new production/distribution company will expand its activities in the production of feature films, shorts and documentaries for theatrical and television release. The company will also concentrate on foreign sales and the promotion of Japanese cinema in Canada and Canadian cinema in Japan.

Company principals are Claude Gagnon and Yuri Yoshimura. Jean Colbert, formerly of Ciné Maison Bellevue and Films Mutuels, will head the distribution operation.

The company is currently involved with the Canadian distribution of **The Kid Brother**. More than 12 countries have requested rights to the film including the U.S., China, U.S.S.R., France, Germany, Australia, Yugoslavia, Korea and Bulgaria.

Tax relief

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"We are covering the shortfall where it exists," says Pilon, who did not know how many productions, to date, have applied for assistance.

Interim measures include a temporary suspension of the administration fee charged to clients on all transactions (retroactive to Aug. 1, 1987 until March 31, 1988) and additional investment in Telefilm-funded productions up to and not exceeding 49 per cent.

Telefilm is also studying ways to prop up the capital base within the Canadian film industry. Means of achieving this end might include corporate loans for producers and distributors, non-voting minority interest equity shares in production companies which would facilitate proper lines of credit from lending institutions, and the funding of distribution companies to trigger production as opposed to productionoriented funding.

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