

Palace coup by Schein in Vancouver

VANCOUVER – Hannah Fisher has resigned as the executive director of the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF). Her decision came just a week after a surprise takeover of the board of directors led by Festival founding director Leonard Schein and just five months before the 1988 VIFF is due to begin.

There had been no indication of such a major change at the Festival until the night of the Society's Annual General Meeting, April 12. Schein and his "Vancouver Community Slate" greeted the few people attending with a campaign brochure.

"We want the Festival to keep as its priority Vancouver filmgoers," the brochure declared. "We think (it) should not become top heavy in administration and should carefully watch its expenditures so that we do not join the

(Vancouver Symphony Orchestra) in its financial problems."

The pamphlet also suggested that Society members vote for Schein, distributor Thomas Lightburn and Dr. Art Hister, host of *Doctor, Doctor* on CBC-TV. All three were elected along with like-minded Alan Franey.

The incumbent board's nomination committee, led by Daryl Duke of CKVU-TV, had recommended re-election of the incumbents – VIFF chairman Crawford Hawkins, arts entrepreneur David Y. H. Lui and Arts Club Theatre artistic director Bill Millerd – and Liberal lawyer John Swift who had been filling a vacancy by appointment. All were defeated.

The nominations from the floor had clearly come as a surprise to Fisher and the incumbent Board. A Media Release prepared beforehand said that "the 68th Annual Festival was the most successful in its history... attendance at the 177 screenings increased by 25% over the previous year.

"The Festival had eliminated its previously existing deficit of approximately \$60,000 through increased ticket sales and through

fundraising efforts of the board."

Audited reports backing up the claims on the press release were approved by the Annual General Meeting.

The day after the rout, director Daryl Duke resigned from the board (last year CKVU was a major VIFF sponsor), leaving Schein's slate with a clear majority. Fisher announced her resignation on April 21, was asked to reconsider by Schein, but decided to exit diplomatically.

"It's happened very naturally. April is my second anniversary of coming to the Festival. I've completed my two-year mandate and I feel it's time to explore some new options. There's a brand new board, it's new beginnings, and I feel it's new beginnings for me too," she told *Cinema Canada*.

"I feel I really have completed what I originally planned to do."

She denied taking the election of the new directors as a vote-of-non-confidence, saying "the new team has a lot of credibility and experience and they deserve a new beginning..." and hinted that she will continue working in Vancouver.

However, two years is hardly long enough to realize a vision, at least not as ambitious a vision as she seemed to be pursuing since taking over from Schein in 1986 when he left for Toronto's Festival of Festivals. He'd built a small but solid local event; she had begun to transform it into something with an international reputation, a mission both helped and hindered by last year's Commonwealth Conference.

Fisher has decided that there was little point in competing with the European connections enjoyed in Montreal and Toronto. Born in China and familiar with many eastern countries, she'd planned to focus on the Pacific Rim. The omnipresence of the Commonwealth meetings skewed her first year (in '86 she simply carried on with plans left behind by Schein) but she'd travelled extensively, making arrangements for 1988.

She'd also made a lot of headway on the financial front. Government money increased from \$188,000 in 1986 to nearly \$500,000 in '87 (in addition to a \$50,000 grant from Telefilm aimed at the deficit she'd inherited). Likewise,

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theatrical film, *Scanners*. **exec. p.** Victor Solniki, Pierre David.

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ADAM AND EVE

Theatrical feature film scheduled to shoot in Toronto and Jamaica in summer. **exec. p.** Peter Wilson **d.** Robert Bouvier **sc.** Peter Wilson, Andreas Blackwell.

THOR, GOD OF THUNDER

Theatrical feature film scheduled to shoot in Ontario this winter. **exec. p.** Peter Wilson **d.** Robert Bouvier **sc.** Brian Dick.

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MAMIE BLUE

A musical/drama feature film made for TV. The story of a woman's determination to carry on after her husband's death. Scheduled to shoot in Montreal in the fall. **p./d.** Louis Goyer **exec. p.** Bernard Ferro **d.o.p.** Paul Hurteau **asst. d.** Pierre Plante **i.p.** Raneé Lee.

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THE LION'S SHARE

Feature film. Expected to go into pre-production in June. **p./sc.** Eric P. Klein.

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BYE BYE BLUES

Feature film loosely inspired by events in the life of Anne Wheeler's own mother during W.W. II. The 35 mm drama is budgeted at \$4 million. **d./sc.** Anne Wheeler **exec. p.** Tony Allard **co-p.** Anne Wheeler, Arvi Liimatainen. After shooting in Alberta, the film will move to India for further shooting in late summer. **funds TFC**, the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation, CBC, CITV, Allarcam. Distribution in Canada will be handled by Cinema Plus. Release date is targeted for early 1989.

ANGEL SQUARE

Feature film based on book of same name by Brian Doyle. Financial participation from Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation and Superchannel. **p./d.** Anne Wheeler **sc.** Jim Defelice, Anne Wheeler.

In the Can

AFTER FOOD OF THE GODS

Feature film shot in Toronto. Produced in association with Rose and Ruby productions. **exec. p.** Andras Hamori **p.** David Mitchell **sc.** Michael Werb **d.** Damien Lee **d.o.p.** Curtis Petersen **i.p.** Jackie Burroughs, Paul Coufos, Lisa Schrage **dist.** Alliance Releasing (Canada), Caroloc Pictures (world-wide) **p.c.** Alliance Entertainment, (416) 967-1174.

CHANGING HABITS

A weekly 22 x 1/2h TV situation comedy shot in Halifax between March-April 1. **exec. p./p./d.** Joseph Landry, Brian Gazeley **ed.** Jonpaul Vincent **cam.** Joseph Burke **set des.** Michael Miller **grip** Leonard Miller **cost.** Heather Gazeley **makeup** Barb Moore **i.p.** Melanie Smith, Garrett Macfayden, Michelle K. Smith, Gladis Dorey, Audrie Mosher, John Poulton, Joseph Oliver, Wayne Gordon **p.c.** Dreamweaver. (902) 454-2829.

DINNER FOR FOUR

A contemporary comedy that touches on the ups and downs of the restructured post-nuclear family. The feature recently began shooting in Montreal and will be broadcast by the

Radio-Quebec TV network in early '89.

It is the third film of a 10 part package **p.** Louise Gendron, Aimée Danis **p.c.** les Productions du Verseau and the NFB **d.** Jacques Wolbrod Benoit **sc.** Jean-Raymond Marcoux, Bernard Dansereau, Annie Pierard **funds TFC**, NFB **i.p.** Sylvie Legault, Normand Chouinard, Lucie Laurier and Sebastien Tougas **p.c.** TV-films Associes, (514) 935-8521.

CHILDREN OF POVERTY

Movie of the Week. Produced by Phoenix Entertainment Group and IndieProd Company in association with Alliance Entertainment Corporation for ABC. **IndieProd exec. p.** Bruce Sallan **p.** Andras Hamori **Phoenix sup. ex.** Jerry Isenberg **Phoenix p. exec.** Bill Oens **sc./co-p.** Dennis Nemeč **d.** Larry Elikan **d.o.p.** Miklos Lente **casting** Clare Walker **pub.** Bill Vigars, Theresa Burke **i.p.** Nicholas Campbell, Peggy Smithhart, Tony Rosato **p.c.** Alliance Entertainment Corporation, (416) 967-1174.

FRANCIS

p. Aimée Danis and Louise Gendron (Les Productions du Verseau)/ NFB. **d.** Jacques W. Benoit **sc.** Bernard Dansereau, Annie Pierard, Jean-Raymond Marcoux. Third in the Producteurs TV-Films Associés series. **budget \$846,000 funds TFC** and Société générale du cinéma. **co-p.** NFB **pub.** Kevin Tierney, Christiane Ducasse, David Novek Associates (514) 284-2113 **p.c.** Les producteurs TV-Films Assoc.

FRONTIER FOOTLIGHTS

A documentary which follows the Sudbury Theatre Centre Touring Company as it travels throughout areas of the Far North to such communities as Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Moosonee. It will be telecast by Mid-Canada Television in Canada and by the BBC series. **funds OFDC, TFC p./d.** Les Harris **assoc. p./2nd unit d.** Andrew Johnson **exec. p.** Jane Harris **P.C.** Canamadia Productions, (416) 591-6612.

ONZIEME SPECIALE

The fourth of a 10 part package from Les Producteurs TV-Films Assoc. The movies are scheduled to be aired on the Radio-Quebec television the beginning of January, 1989. The story of an upcoming high school reunion that will bring together a group of women who haven't seen each other since they graduated. **p.** Roger Frappier, Pierre Gendron (Cinema Plus Productions)/ NFB. **d.** Micheline Lanctot. **sc.** Marie Perreault, Louise Roy. Fourth in the Producteurs TV-Films Associés series. **funds TFC** and Société générale du cinéma. **co-p.** National Film Board of Canada. **budget \$846 000 pub.** Kevin Tierney, Christiane Ducasse, David Novek Associates (514) 284-2113 **p.c.** TV-Films Associes, (514) 935-8521.

RICHARD - COEUR - DE - NYLON

p. Robert Ménard (Les Productions Videofilms)/ NFB **d.** Michel Poulette **sc.** Jean Barbeau. Produced with financial participation of Téléfilm, Société générale du cinéma and Radio-Quebec. **Co-p.** National Film Board. **pub.** Kevin Tierney, Christiane Ducasse, David Novek Associates (514) 284-2113. **p.c.** Les Producteurs TV-Films Assoc.

SALUT VICTOR

Most of the shooting for this feature length film was done within the NFB's Montreal studios. **d.** Anne Claire Poirier. **p.** Monique Letourneau, NFB **sc.** Marthe Blackburn, Anne-Claire Poirier. Shooting in Montreal in the spring. Fifth in the Producteurs TV-Films Associés series. **funds TFC** and Société générale du cinéma. **p.c.** Les Producteurs TV-Films Assoc. and National Film Board of Canada.

budget \$846,000 pub. Kevin Tierney, Christiane Ducasse, David Novek Associates (514) 2842113.

LA TARANTULE

A 1h film made for TV. The story of a young girl's struggle with the extreme guilt she places on herself after the death of her sister. Although the accidental death of her sister was not her fault, she continues to blame herself. The film was shot on location in Montreal and surrounding area. **p.** Louis Goyer **exec. p.** Bernard Ferro **d.** Michel Jette **d.o.p.** Paul Hurteau **asst. d.** Pierre Plante **i.p.** Claudia Kur, Patrick Peuvion, Lilianne Jolen Peuvion, Michèle Peloquin, Jean-Francois Pichette **p.c.** Les Productions Chantfilm Inc., (514) 228-2795 and Visamondo Inc., (514) 288-0514.

TWINS

A psychological thriller which explores the bizarre lives and interdependencies of identical twin physicians who died under mysterious circumstances in New York in the mid '70s. Shooting started Feb. 1 and wrapped April 15th. **d.** David Cronenberg **p.** Marc Boyman, David Cronenberg **a. p.** Lesley Clark **exec. p.** Joe Roth, Silvio Tabet, Carol Baum **i.p.** Jeremy Irons, Genevieve Bujold. (additional cast/crew listings in April production guide) **p.c.** Mantle Clinic II, (416) 443-0025.

21 JUMP STREET

TV series. 13 episodes. **exec. p.** Patrick Hasburgh **p.** Bill Nuss, Steve Beers **assoc. p.** Joan Carson, Jimmy Girtlan **d.** various **p. man.** Mary Guilfoyle **p. co-ord.** Leslie Valleau **loc. man.** Dean Stoker, Ian Overend **art d.** Michel Nemirsky **pub.** Lisa Newinson **casting d.** Lynn Carrow **i.p.** Johnny Depp, Peter DeLuise, Holly Robinson, Dustin Nguyen, Steve Williams. Shot in Vancouver from July 14 - March 16. **p.c.** Cannell films of Canada Ltd., (604) 683-2362.

McGYVER

A 17 x 1h TV series. **exec. p.** Steve Downing **p.** Michael Greenburg **d.** various **prod. man.** Bob Frederick **prod. coord** Elaine Flemming **loc. man.** Ted Bauman **casting d.** Fiona Jackson **extras** Sandy Caldwell **art d.** Rex Raglan **i.p.** Richard Dean Anderson. Shooting from July 13. Wrapped at the end of Feb. in B.C. **p.c.** Paramount production, (604) 291-0457. Scheduled to resume shoot July 13 - March 21.

MOUNT ROYAL

A new prime-time weekly Canadian dramatic series. An official Canada-France co-production. Produced by Alliance Entertainment Corporation in association with the CTV Television Network, Société Radio-Canada, Rogers Telecommunications and SFP (France). **funds TFC.** Principal photography on the two-hour pilot began Aug. 25, with shooting on 15 1-hour episodes to follow. **exec. p. / creator** Robert Lantos **i.p.** Emile Genest, Patrick Bauchau, Domini Blythe, Catherine Colvey, Jonathan Crombie, Guylaine St. Onge, Monique Mercure, Pierre Kohl **p.c.** Alliance Entertainment Corporation, (416) 967-1174. Shooting will resume for the second season.

NIGHT HEAT

Weekly television series produced in association with Grosso / Jacobson Productions for CTV and CBS. Shooting on location in Toronto. **sup. p.** Stephen J. Roth, Andras Hamori **exec. p.** Sonny Grosso, Larry Jacobson **p.** Jeff King **exec. in ch.** of Mimi Bohbol **exec. story ed.** Bob Carney **d.** Mario Azzopardi, René Bonnière, George Mendeluk, Jorge Montesi, Tim Bond **d.o.p.** Malcolm Cross **casting** Clare Walker

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DEPARTMENT OF FILM AND VIDEO. Applications are invited for a one-year term appointment as assistant professor. Candidates shall have professional experience in film drama direction and have had considerable experience teaching advanced film and video production. The ability to teach introductory film history would be an asset. The appointment shall commence July 1, 1988. Curriculum vitae including the names of three references should be sent to: Dr. Martin Bergbusch, Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2. Deadline for acceptance of applications is May 15, 1988. In accordance with Canadian Immigration Regulations, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

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corporate support was up from \$5,000 to \$66,000.

Fisher may have been diplomatic in her exit but others were not. Duke told *Cinema Canada*, "I saw the shambles Leonard Schein left behind when he ran off to Toronto. I'm busy and I have to look at who I want to spend time with. I'm interested in working with the new group of directors."

Ousted chairman Crawford Hawkins said, apparently in reference to the early days of the Festival, "The days of smoking dope and watching films are over. The raid on the AGM changed the complexion of the Festival; they want to bring it back to a local event because they're the theatre owners," a reference to Schein's demand that all screenings revert to the Ridge, the Hollywood and the Vancouver East

Cinema (Fisher had used screens all over the city so that filmgoers in most neighborhoods could see something at their local theatre).

Schein denies any conflict of interest saying he sold all interests in the Ridge and the Hollywood some years ago. His companion Alan Franey is still programmer at the Vancouver East.

Hawkins also told *Cinema Canada* that he'd already had word that the federal and provincial governments were not interested in funding an essentially local event and that both were displeased by the turn of events at the annual general meeting.

At presstime, it was announced that Alan Franey, former director of the Olympic Film Festival at Calgary and newly elected board member has been appointed interim director of the festival. Businessman Michael Francis and architect Bruno Freschi have been appointed to the board of directors.

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