

Saskatchewan puts training project in place

REGINA—The Saskatchewan Film Development Project was launched recently with the announcement of a \$1.2 million commitment from the National Film Board of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Funding will be split evenly two ways between the NFB and Parks, Recreation and Culture (Saskatchewan) for this three-year production training and film development project.

Saskwest Television Inc. has acquired broadcast rights to the first comedy-drama entitled *The Great Electrical Revolution*.

The NFB and Regina Motion Picture, Video and Sound Ltd. will coproduce the program based on Saskatchewan writer Ken Mitchell's story and directed by Larry Bauman of Regina. This \$300,000 production is scheduled for shooting January 1989, in Moose Jaw and Regina.

According to Barbara J. Stewart, co-ordinator of the Saskatchewan Film Development Project, *The Great Electrical Revolution* will serve as a prototype, setting the standards for the second component of the project, an anthology series of six half-hour dramas entitled *The Door*, exploring issues that will have an impact on the people of Saskatchewan in the 21st century.

Aided by a Training Advisory Committee, Stewart's strategy is to hire local screenwriters, directors, performers, musicians and production crews while bringing in experts to give guidance on the shoot. While the first projects may be top-heavy in "imported" talent, she expects the experience gained by local crews to bring filmmaking in the province up to a world standard quickly. "We have the talent here; what we need is to be shown what is required."

The monies already committed to the project are to be matched by the producers of the half-hours from other sources like Telefilm Canada.

Cannell / IATSE make a deal

VANCOUVER—Cannell Productions of Canada has concluded negotiations with two IATSE locals in Vancouver. Camera local 667 has ratified an agreement with the television production company which business agent George Chapman says is 'tailored to work on series rather than feature films.' Local 891 has also reached a tentative agreement with Cannell which was expected to be approved by the union's membership by the end of June. Cannell

is also waiting ratification of an agreement with Teamsters local 155.

IATSE says 1988 appears to be a good year for its members. As of our deadline IATSE crews were working on six projects in principal photography, three in pre-production and, according to Chapman, had six others in the works.

Rival unions ACFC-Vancouver and NABET 800 were not faring as well.

The new branch of the Association of Canadian Film Craftspeople has undergone yet another change in command. The new president is electrician and set-decorator Joris

Eking. He replaces Ray Hache who is now business agent replacing, in turn, founder Kevin Brown.

Brown left ACFC after a disagreement about whether the new branch would attempt to add transportation staff to its roster. He's now working with David Kelly at NABET 800.

Neither union had taken on any major projects by mid-June, although Kelly said some NABET members were being sent out on daycalls. Both claim they are negotiating with producers and expect to enter into agreements before the end of the year.

IATSE says the American Writers Guild strike

is, indirectly, good for its crews. Chapman says that too much work last year meant there weren't enough experienced people to go around and some producers were dissatisfied. ACFC is less optimistic. Eking says the spin-off effect is that senior film technicians are taking work on non-union projects.

(Finally, by way of clarification: Our story in the June issue implied that David Kelly of NABET had been actively negotiating a deal with Cannell in Canada. In fact he was referring to agreements between NABET and Cannell in the United States. We apologize for the misunderstanding.)

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