

Changing the guard at the advanced centre

NORTH YORK - The Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies has announced that Sam Kula, executive director of the Centre since September, 1987, will be leaving after only a year on the job. Norman Jewison, founder and co-chairman of the Centre, simultaneously announced the appointment of Peter O'Brian as Kula's replacement.

The Centre, which officially opened February 29, has been facing cash shortages and renovation difficulties and Kula was reported to be fed up with the money-raising side of the job.

Explaining the financial situation to *Cinema Canada*, Kula said, "We had a lot of problems getting into Winfields. It's a wonderful facility now, but it was a little trying to get it underway, organized and equipped." Renovations alone cost twice the estimated amount, Kula continued.

"The Centre requires further assistance from the different levels of government, from private sources, the industry and the foundations to meet its capital requirements. We had a \$200,000 grant from the department of Communications for capital improvement. It hasn't gone nearly far enough. The Centre is in need, not desperate, but definitely in need of additional funding from all levels of government," he concluded.

Kula said he was pleased by the level of private support for the Centre, especially through the Second Monday Reel Club at which, for a \$1,000 ticket, members can see a series of 12 premieres over the course of the year.

Kula had been on a leave of absence from his job as director of the Moving Image and Sound Archives Division of the National Archives in Ottawa. "Since coming here there have been a number of announcements coming out of Ottawa pertaining to the Archives, one of which is the new building. This is something that I've been waiting for for 15 years," he explained, justifying his decision to return to Ottawa.

As for the nomination of O'Brian, Kula is pleased. "He understands precisely the kind of people we are looking for (as students at the Centre) and he has a profound understanding of the realities of filmmaking in this country. Nobody bears more scars to prove how difficult it is to make films with integrity; films that somehow say something about Canada and Canadians - that do not wrap themselves in other people's flags."

O'Brian's most recent project, the feature film *Hollywood North*, was jeopardized by the financial troubles at Telefilm Canada, putting his own production company, Independent Pictures, at risk. He was not available for

comment on his appointment at the Centre. Anne Mackenzie, formerly the managing director of the Festival of Festivals, has been appointed Associate Director of the Centre.

New dubbing facility opens in Montreal

MONTREAL - Christiane Bélanger has a special interest in supporting the controversial Bill 59 requiring dubbed versions of English-language films in Quebec.

A 13-year veteran of the sound and dubbing department at Bellevue Pathé, Bélanger has formed her own dubbing company, Super Sync Inc.

Joining Bélanger at Super Sync is her former assistant, Dominique Gagné who will serve as vice-president. Daniel Vincent, another former Bellevue Pathé employee, has been hired as technical director.

Bélanger, who is also a board member of the Institut québécois du cinéma, says she is in favour of Bill 59 and its (Section 83) requirement that a dubbed copy must be provided for every English-language print shown in Quebec.

"There is no reason anyone should wait to see a film in their own language," says Bélanger, who adds that contrary to protests south of the border, the U.S. major studios will not lose any money as long as dubbed films are available on a day and date basis with the opening of the English-language version.

It has become apparent, she says, that dubbed film versions are being released sooner than they were prior to December 1987 when Lise Bacon, Quebec minister of Cultural Affairs, introduced the amendment to Quebec's Cinema Act.

"The difference is that we never before made this sort of demand on the U.S. majors," says Bélanger.

Bélanger says her loyalty was divided when in February, Harold Greenberg, chairman of Astral Bellevue Pathé Inc., publicly stated opposition to Bill 59, Section 83 on the grounds that it would result in fewer films made available to the Quebec public.

"I have much respect for him (Greenberg) but the minister had to do what she did. He never looked for my advice because he didn't want to know," says Bélanger.

With offices and studios located in the Studios Marko building, Super Sync is currently working on dubbed versions of several feature films including *Tampopo* and *Peter No Tail in Amerikat* for Alliance-Vivafilm, *Higher Education* and *Blindside* for Norstar Simcom and *Family Viewing* for Cinephile.

Despite odds, Film Canada Year still on

TORONTO - Andra Sheffer, executive director of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, has confirmed that the Canada Film Year project will proceed as planned. Originally announced by Flora MacDonald, minister of Communications, several years ago, this celebration of Canadian cinema has been through a rough gestation period. But now all seems set for 1989.

"We have a short list and we are continuing to look for a director," says Sheffer. "We hope that we will have somebody in place by the fall once funding is confirmed."

In the meantime, the Academy will be doing the administrative work that has to be done to get to that stage. There is no confirmation of Telefilm involvement to date. However, they have been paying the bills and providing some seed money. According to Sheffer, "What we want is new funding. There has to be some new funding approved."

Meanwhile, a separate corporate entity has been set up and a board of 20 people has been appointed. These include: Chairman Stephen Roth (president Cinexus Capital Corporation), Walter Senior (CEO Famous Players), Sam Jephcott (president CFTA), Garth Drabinsky (Cineplex Odeon), Hannah Fisher (formerly of the Vancouver Film Festival), Harold Greenberg (Astral), Norman Jewison (director), René Malo (producer), Peter Mortimer (executive vice-president ACFTP), Peter Simpson (Norstar Entertainment), Helga Stephenson (director of the Festival of Festivals), and Sheffer herself.

Roth says the Canadian Film Year is to be a

variety of events, like mini film festivals, that will take place across the country "to make Canadians more aware of the movies being made in this country." He is confident that the government will come up with \$2 million, which he says will only be part of a total budget that might be more than \$3 million.

According to Sheffer, 1989 was chosen because it happens to be the 10th anniversary of the Academy, the 50th of the National Film Board, and the 15th of the Cinémathèque Québécoise. She says there will be no conflict with the celebrations planned for the NFB. "We are meeting with the Board and hopefully that will work out, although it might be more indirect than direct."

Jean Sirois, whose controversial tenure with Telefilm came to an end recently, remains as a volunteer corporate secretary.

Famous back in production

TORONTO - Gulf and Western's Famous Players Inc. once the dominant theatre chain in Canada, currently finds itself in tough competition with Garth Drabinsky's aggressive Cineplex Odeon conglomerate. Famous is returning to film production for the first time since 1981 and recently signed a joint ownership deal with Stephen Roth's newly formed Cinexus Capital Corporation. Almost simultaneously they announced the construction of eight new theatre complexes in the Toronto market.

In addition, they have opened four in-theatre shops to sell movie-related items. There are two Famous Movie Shops in Toronto and in Montreal. They sell movie-related merchandise from current releases, nostalgia items, some studio logo merchandise and items developed by Famous Players.

ATTENTION PRODUCERS

Zoom Films will sell your films and television programs to buyers from around the world at the Montreal International Film, Television and Video Market, August 29 - September 3, 1988.

Zoom Films
international sales and promotion

Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Tel. : (514) 932-6234