

# ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

The Ontario Arts Council offers grants to professional artists who are residents of Ontario, working in the following disciplines:

## SCREENWRITING

to assist with the development of feature-length dramatic screenplays.  
Deadline: February 1

## FILM

towards the production costs of documentary, dramatic, animated or experimental films.  
Deadlines: April 1, November 1

## VIDEO

to assist with the production of original video art.  
Deadlines: February 1, August 15

Please note: all applications must be supported by examples of recent work.

For further information and application forms, contact:

Film, Photography and Video Office  
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
151 Bloor Street West, Suite 500  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1T6 (416) 961-1660



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**Autumn Leaves Are Burning Dept. :** The new Regina offices of the Saskatchewan Film Pool were destroyed by a fire which raged through the 8th Avenue building on October 4. The building burned for three days while Regina firefighters attempted to keep the raging inferno under control. Luckily, none of the building's occupants were inside when the furnace exploded at 7:00 in the evening. The double concrete walls were enough to envelope the blaze, sending the flames straight to the top until they gradually worked their way to the bottom floor. Other tenants included an aquatic supplies store, a restaurant and a plumbing and heating joint.

"We were damn lucky to have lost only one truckload of stuff," said Sask Film Pool's Brenda Owens. The film co-op was in the process of moving from its old headquarters on Rae Street to this new space, which boasted 5300 square feet for the insanely reasonable monthly rent of \$600 plus utilities. Ironically, the fire occurred when Owens made a trip to Vancouver to sign a lease with the B.C.-based landlord. As luck would have it, the Film Pool had decided upon a gradual move to the new premises. "Otherwise," said Owens, "everything might have been destroyed."

Lost in the fire were the following items: a moviescope, splicers, rewinds and various pieces of office furniture. As well, a number of Sask Film Pool films were gobbled up by the flames. At press-time, it hadn't yet been determined which titles were lost; however, Owens claims that none of the negatives were destroyed. "We're insured to the hilt," she added.

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**The Gangsters Are Coming. The Gangsters Are Coming Dept. :** Rumours are running rampant in Winnipeg regarding the \$2 million O'Meara Productions feature, *Mob Story*. Local industry types have suggested everything from private financing fallouts to Telefilm pull-outs. "I love rumours," laughed O'Meara's Gabriel Markiw. "Why don't you make a few more up and print whatever you want." One popular rumour had it that O'Meara would not actually be shooting the film in Winnipeg, but Toronto. "That's a good one," said Markiw. So, what is the score Gabe? Well, according to Markiw, he and his brother/partner Jancario are in negotiations with respect to the cast. He wouldn't elaborate, but insisted it would be "a very good cast."

"Any heavyweights?" this reporter queried.

"Definitely," replied Markiw.

According to Markiw, pre-production begins in December, with shooting slated for early January.

"This picture needs lots of exterior snow," he said, "and if the recent snowfalls are any indication of things to come, we're going to be in fine shape weather-wise, come January."

The crew will be comprised mainly of Manitoba craftspeople. However, the Markiw Brothers may pull a few keys (most notably, the Art Director, Assistant Director and "maybe" the Director of Photography) from out-of-province. Executive Producers are Don Haig and Tony Kramreither.

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**Saskatoon Shmoozing Dept. :** Saskatoon was brimming with industry excitement during four days in November when the Saskatchewan Film Development Project, the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association (SMPIA) and the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival pooled resources and sponsored a series of workshops, panels and a showcase of Sask product.

Highlights included the following:

A basic production workshop which featured Dreamland Picture Company's Peter Campbell, Niv Fichman of Rhombus Media Inc., Kicking Horse Production's Arvi Liimatainen, Dominion Picture's Barbara Tranter and Derek Mazur of Credo Group.

Dan Burke's hype-job on the Supply and Services non-theatrical production fund.

A broadcaster's panel which included Reed Brown from STN Drama Development, CBC Saskatchewan's Bruce Rankin, STV's Rick Friesen, STN's Bill Stevenson, Superchannel's Gerri Cook and Philip Keatley from CBC Vancouver. In general, producers were urged to create quality, market-driven product. No real news, here, just old news (with the exception of Superchannel's Gerri Cook, who announced some exciting new plans and support for Western producers).

- A distribution panel which included representatives from Thomas Howe Associates, the Winnipeg Film Group and Cinephile. Cinephile's André Bennett particularly captured the fancy of Sask producers with his call for low-budget, artist-driven features and a need for a stronger alternative Canadian exhibition system.

- A mega-pitching session, which actually bore some fruit for Sask producers. Good training and a number of deals were struck.

As well, SMPIA held their Annual General Meeting. A new board of directors was elected. The new members include: President Veronica Gamracy, Marion Mills, John MacIntosh, Reed Brown, Terry Marner, Rita Deverell, Bill Stevenson, Larry Bauman, Sheila Roberts, Gerry Horne, Jack Walton, Wayne Wilkins and Wil Campbell.