

RUBEN-WINKLER ENTERTAINMENT INSURANCE LIMITED

We insure:

- Feature Films
- Television Productions
- Theatrical Productions
- Broadcasters
- Book, Magazine, Newspaper Publishers
- Writers
- Record, Tape, Music Publishers
- Concerts
- Festivals
- Special Events

Contact Arthur Winkler

20 Bay Street, Suite 1809
Toronto, Ontario
Tel.: (416) 868-2442
Facsimile: (416) 868-2443

"It's a wrap!"

Toon Explosion in Winnipeg Dept.: With a lot of hard work and a few million bucks, Winnipeg will soon boast a world-class animation centre, thanks to the joint efforts of several award-winning indie Toban cine-cartoon artists. As a result of a feasibility study conducted by David Balcon for the Department of Communications, Neil McInnes, president of the Manitoba Society of Independent Animators (MSIA), recently announced that MSIA is developing a business plan to establish an Animation Centre in Winnipeg.

"The object of the Centre," said McInnes, "is to promote and develop new directions in animated film productions." The Centre itself would sport workshop space, film production, women's programs, computer animation, a resource center and a biennial animation festival. It is projected to be part of the Broadcast and Technology Center in the Winnipeg Forks Development and will develop a research and training liaison between computer animation and industry.

McInnes stressed that the Centre's activities will not be localized to the exclusion of outside talent. "We hope that the Centre can be accessed by people from all over Canada and the world," he said. "We've (MSIA) already been in contact with other Canadian animators and have also spoken with animation societies in the United States and Europe." Organizations already contacted include the Vancouver Society of Independent Animators, The Toronto Animation Society, the Canadian chapter of ASIFA and the Holland Society of Animators.

On the dollars and cents end, MSIA has already received \$10,000 from the Department of Communications to develop the business plan. As well, McInnes states that the "National Film Board (NFB) has been very supportive," supplying space, mailouts, a brochure and moral support.

NFB's support seems only fitting since three of MSIA's members, Richard Condie, Brad Caslor and Cordell Barker produced three films through the NFB Prairie Centre which have acquired well over 30 worldwide awards. Condie's *The Big Smit*, copped a Genie Award and an Oscar nomination, Caslor's *Get A Job* snared a Genie, while Barker's *The Cat Came Back* scooped three awards at Zagreb.

Other MSIA members are McInnes (*Transformer, Loved And Lost*), Alan Parkarnyk (*North Star*) and Cathy McInnes (*That's The Idea*). Winnipeg has also spawned such award-winning animators as John Paizs (*Dreamer, The 2/3 To 5 Crack, Hoedown*) and Ed Ackerman (*Primiti Too Taa, Sarah's Dream, 5 Cents A Copy*). The history of animation in Winnipeg dates back to 1910 when Jean Arsin worked in Winnipeg's North End, producing 35mm puppet animation. Since that time, Winnipeg has boasted a rich commercial animation industry with such companies as Credo Group, Perkins and Associates and Audience West. As well, Winnipeg animators have produced 20 animated segments per year for *Sesame Street*.

MSIA has formed a separate committee to develop the business plan. The committee includes Neil McInnes, Cathy McInnes, Brad Caslor, Bill Stewart and NFB's Cyndi Forcand.

In November, MSIA mailed out a hefty survey to the animation community. The questionnaire covers such areas as facilities, production, skills, technical development and public awareness.

MSIA (pronounced "Messiah") has yet to develop a logo for their organization. Given the other-worldly state of animation in Winnipeg, it would be safe to assume that the logo will be endowed with a Son-O-God-like quality.

'Tis the Season to be Leavin' Dept.: Canada Manitoba Cultural Industries Development Office (CIDO) Film Officer Bob Rodgers left his position and Winnipeg at Christmastime. Rodgers plans to reactivate his Toronto-based production company, Belair Communications. His tenure at CIDO was on a one-year contract. Rodgers' position at CIDO has been filled by Liz Janzen.

From Gimli to Siberia Dept.: Guy Maddin, helmer of the Canadian cult-hit *Tales From The Gimli Hospital*, is in pre-production on his new feature, *Archangel*. Pic in set in turn-of-the-century Siberia. Maddin just scored a production grant from the Manitoba Arts Council and a distribution deal from Cinephile. The crazed romantic comedy should be ready for release in 1990. Also, Maddin has gone from Gimli to Siberia in more ways than one. Last year, Maddin led a team of Winnipeg filmmakers to his Gimli, Manitoba cottage to set a new record for The Latest-Swim-of-the-Year-in-Lake-Winnipeg. Several Winnipeg filmmakers ripped off their clothes and plunged into the icy Lake Winnipeg waters on December 9. This year, the record was set at the staggeringly late date of December 15. Next year, Maddin, not wanting to appear sexist, plans to invite some female filmmakers along for the nude dip in Gimli. "Besides," said Maddin, "I've realized that five hairy, naked guys drinking Ovaltine in my cottage just isn't as exciting as it used to be."