

# Congratulations to the National Film Board of Canada

## 50 great years



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## Platt leaves Atlantis

TORONTO - Janice Platt, one of the founding members of Toronto's Atlantis Films, has decided to take "an extended leave of absence" after ten years with the company she built with partners Michael MacMillan and Seaton McLean. "It's a terrifying thought", she told *Cinema Canada*, "but necessary." Platt was recently married and has no definite plans for the future, apart from her first child expected in October.

Platt said she had "no idea" that the company would grow so large after their modest start in 1978 when she, MacMillan and McLean formed Atlantis after graduating from Queen's University. It was Platt who walked up to receive the Academy Award for Best Short Drama for *Boys and Girls*, part of Atlantis' breakthrough series of family dramas. Over the years MacMillan emerged as the deal maker/executive producer and Platt, while still a partner, became one of the many producers for the company. Her last production was *Dude*, which Atlantis produced in association with Virtue-Rekert Productions.

## A salute to the documentary

MONTRÉAL - The National Film Board of Canada will host an international symposium and show two hundred documentary films June 16 to 25th in Montreal. The event which is part of the 50th birthday party of the NFB will provide a chance to question the status quo; an opportunity to share new directions with colleagues from around the world; an occasion for celebration; an engagement of ideas, ideals, practicalities and realities; an affirmation of belief in life and in those films and filmmakers who support the continuing search for truth.

The event is structured around ten days of screenings which will take place in a number of downtown cinemas as well as at the NFB, and six days of discussions, symposia, debates, addresses and workshops. Throughout this panoply of resources will be the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, to make new friends and to establish contacts which result in international collaboration.

According to the NFB, it will set the stage for this genre of film to find new forms and new audiences in the decades ahead.

Several hundred filmmakers, distributors, broadcasters, producers, journalists, critics and educators from around the world will gather to share their experience, to listen to esteemed colleagues and to pursue vigorous debate surrounding the documentary film. Each day will be devoted to a different theme, and will be enhanced by the presence of several dozen invited guests. People such as Danish filmmaker Dola Bonfils; Gary Crowds, editor of *Cineaste*; the dean of documentary filmmakers, Joris Ivens; American filmmakers Frederick Wiseman and Richard Leacock; Nick-Hart Williams, independent British director; David McDougall from Australia; Julio Garcia Espinoza, Cuban Vice-Minister of Culture; and Gaston Kabore, Secretary General of the Pan-African Federation of Filmmakers.

The symposium will take place at the NFB studios and simultaneous translation or interpretation services will permit easy interchange amongst English, French and Spanish-speaking participants.

Many of the most interesting documentaries from forty countries will be shown to participants in both downtown cinemas and at the NFB itself. Of course it will be a chance to see the classics, but the programme is full of contemporary surprises as well. At least ten major new productions will be premiered, including Nettie Wild's highly-acclaimed "A Rustling of Leaves", Helga Reidemeister's "Shooting in Berlin", and "Falklands, an Untold Story" by Peter Kominsky.

In addition to the three groups of films chosen under the headings "The Eighties", "Canada-