

Trade News

Superpowers vie for Grand Prize of the Americas

MONTREAL - The 13th annual Montreal World Film Festival will feature 240 films from 51 countries including 25 films from the U.S. and a strong film presence from the U.S.S.R.

In the Official Competition, *Save and Protect* by Alexandre Sokourov, has been called a faithful interpretation of Flaubert's literary classic *Madame Bovary*. *Sir* by Sergei Bodrov will also be presented in competition. Both directors will attend the festival.

Soviet films in the Official Selection Hors Concours are: *Fountain* by Youri Mamin, *The Servant* by Vadim Abdraschitov, *Museum Customer* by Constantin Lopoushanski.

Zero City by Karen Chakhnazarov and *The Wife of the Kerosene Seller* by Alexandre Kaidanovski, *Stalin with Us* by Tofik Shahverdiyev and *Hard Time for the First Hundred Years* by Victor Aristov will be presented in the Cinema of Today and Tomorrow section.

Heading up the Soviet delegation is the president of Goskino, the state committee for Soviet cinematography, several department heads within Goskino, Andrei Plakhov, who is a film critic and the directors Bodrov, Sokourov and Abdraschitov.

The festival opens August 24 with the world premiere of *Shirley Valentine* starring Tom Conti and Pauline Collins, produced and directed by Lewis Gilbert from a screenplay by Willy Russell. Executive Producer is John Dark for Paramount. Pauline Collins will attend the premiere.

Also confirmed to attend the festival are actors Raul Julia, Ray Sharkey, Michael Chiklise. Julia appears in *Romero* (U.S.) entered in the Official Competition.

Directors Susan Seidelman and Larry Peerce will accompany their films - *Cookie*, starring Peter Falk and Emily Lloyd and *Wired*. Also from the U.S. is *Sex, Lies and Videotape* by Steven Soderbergh, best film at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

The Canadian entry in the official competition is *Portion d'Éternité* by Robert Favreau.

Once again, the best film of the festival will take the Grand Prize of the Americas and a \$50,000 prize will be awarded to the best feature by a first-time director.

This year's jury president is actress Leslie Caron. Other jury members are: Istvan Szabo, Kryztof Kieslowski, Govind Nihalani, Giuliano Montaldo, Roger Frappier, Gil Parrondo, Kyushiro Kusakabe, Carlos Morelli.

Special film events will include a day-long tribute to the National Film Board of Canada on its 50th anniversary, a film tribute to France on its bicentennial and a gala luncheon for Harold Greenberg of Astral Bellevue Pathé.

The Montreal International Film Market will be held at the Hotel Méridien between Aug. 28 and Sept. 2 with over 200 companies participating.

The Montreal Film and Television Symposium, Aug. 31 to Sept. 1, will be held in the Guy Favreau Complex with a focus on Europe in 1992; film and television in the European free trade environment.

Greenberg honored by WFF

MONTREAL - Harold Greenberg, president and chief executive officer of Astral Bellevue Pathé Inc., will be presented with the International Achievement Award at the Montreal World Film Festival, Aug. 24 to Sept. 4.

Greenberg will be honored by the festival for his "contribution to the development of the Canadian motion picture and television industry" at a gala industry luncheon, Aug. 31, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Montreal hosts Cnd. student film fest.

MONTREAL - The 20th annual Canadian Student Film Festival will be held Aug. 26 to 30 in downtown Montreal.

Over 82 films and seven videos from 15 universities and 12 colleges have been entered in the running for the Norman McLaren Award (best overall). Prizes are also awarded to the best films in the fiction, animation, documentary and experimental categories.

The student film festival will be held as part of the Montreal World Film Festival, Aug. 24 to Sept. 4.

Future of Manitoba funding agency uncertain

WINNIPEG - The Winnipeg Film Group has expressed concern that the agreement signed by the Manitoba government and the federal government in 1984 to create a film funding agency will not be renewed in March 1990.

However, Communications Minister Marcel Masse has indicated in mid-July that he will enter into a dialogue with Bonnie Mitchelson, Manitoba's minister of culture, heritage and recreation.

In view of the minister's response to inquiries by the film group and a province-wide letter-writing campaign, Bruce Duggan, executive director of The Winnipeg Film Group, is optimistic that a political decision will be made in favor of Manitoba's cultural community.

"Six months ago the attitude here was doom and gloom," says Duggan. "The federal government had announced budget cuts and we were not getting any information."

However, he says, both governments have since indicated strong support for the initiatives of the Canada/Manitoba Cultural Industries Development Office (CIDO) and there is reason to believe that it's just a matter of time before some sort of funding mechanism is renewed.

"We have heard through the grapevine that some sort of mechanism will be established. It may or may not be CIDO," says the filmmaker.

Earlier this summer, The Winnipeg Film Group exhorted its members to write to members of parliament and the federal minister of communications. A newsletter editorial reminded its readers that in fiscal year 1984-1985 television and theatrical film distribution received \$17,000. Private funding was \$185,000 and there was no Telefilm funding. In fiscal year 1988-1989 the same funding categories showed \$1.2 million, \$1.25 million and \$3.5 million, respectively.

Jimmy Silden, general manager of CIDO, says the funding agency closed off its funding in March. Unable to put an exact dollar figure on how much would be required to support this vibrant film and television industry that has virtually materialized overnight, Silden says that in excess of \$10 million would be needed over five years just to maintain the current level of activity.

"We have had great success. What they have asked us to do has happened. Now the governments must answer what it is they want to do with us," says Silden.

She says that because of discontinued funding in March, the crunch will come in the fall if there has not been a decision.

OFDC announces a study of film and TV

TORONTO - The Ontario Film Development Corporation announced a comprehensive socio-economic impact study of the film and television industry in Ontario. Noting that the film and TV industry has been severely hindered in developing appropriate programs and strategies by its lack of information about itself, Wendy MacKeigan of the OFDC said the study will be divided into three areas: information gathering; analysis of the social and economic impact of the industry in the province; and recommendations for ongoing information gathering.

An advisory committee has been formed to work with the Nordicity Group Ltd. of Ottawa, a consulting company headed by Peter Lyman. The committee is composed of: MacKeigan, chairperson; Sam Jephcott of the CFTA; Peter Mortimer, ACFTP; Dan Weinzwieg; Naish McHugh of the Toronto Film Office; Don Percifield, DGC; Virginia Rysphan, ACTRA; Ousama Rawi; Robert Hamilton of the Ottawa/Hull Film and TV Association; Howard Krosnick, TVO; and Donna Ratchford for the Ministry of Culture and Communications. The impact study is expected to be released in March 1990.

Owl: best in America

TORONTO - *The Best of Owl/TV*, an hour-long home video version of the award-winning children's TV series has been selected by Parents' Choice, a Boston-based non-profit organization that reviews children's media, as one of the top five videos for children in North America.

The video was featured on ABC's *Good Morning America*.