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## MARK O'NEILL



VANCOUVER - "It was a delightful year," according to BC Film CEO Wayne Sterloff, who reports that the provincial agency contributed over \$4.6 million to filmmaking between April 1988 and March 1989. Twenty-eight productions received BC Film funds and another 21 scripts are in development.

The lottery-funded agency has already received about one million dollars returned on investments although most of the major indigenous features have yet to be released. The B. C. government should be as happy as the writers and producers; for each dollar invested by BC Film, as much as 41 cents in tax revenue should return to provincial coffers.

Sterloff and the rest of the BC Film staff are now sifting through piles of new proposals. "Demand for '89-90 participation already exceeds available resources," says Sterloff, noting that this is the sunset year for the agency. The last promised installment of lottery funds has been received so the amount of money to be invested in the future depends on the returns from films like Matinee, Terminal City Ricochet, Quarantine and Lighthouse.

#### PBS SHOOTS BUSY B.C.

Apparently the PBS people in Seattle, Washington are also impressed by B. C. 's busy film industry. A crew from KCTS-9 were in Vancouver in late July shooting two segments of the 'Inside' news series. One is to be about the boom in general, the second about **Marv Newland** and the animators at International Rocketship. The segments are scheduled for broadcast in October.

#### **KNOWLEDGE NEEDS IDEAS**

B. C. 's Knowledge Network is looking for educational program ideas. The provincial TV system has about \$175,000 to distribute for project planning, production, acquisition and adaptation of programs.

Applications from any B. C. – based public or private sector organization or individual will be considered. They will be considered by the Knowledge Network Planning Council. Further info and application forms are available at (604) 660-2000. Deadline is September 15.

#### STUDENT WINNERS

Congratulations to **Mike Collier** whose 16mm film *Land Above the Trees* won first prize in the Nature and Wildlife category of the 22nd Annual U.S. Film and Video Festival in Chicago. Produced by Yaletown Productions and commissioned by the NFB, the film chronicles the changing of the seasons at the top of mountains, above the tree line.

And a round of applause for B. C. Institute to Technology students Freda Chan, Amelia Resendes and Nancy Aylen. All three received the B. C. Motion Picture Association Award for Creativity in Television.

#### **TWO FROM TROIKA**

Troika Productions has two features in the works. *Hakujin* is written by **Sharon Gibbon** and will star **Helen Shaver**. It deals with the experiences of Japanese Canadians who were interned during World War II.

Hard Boiled, by Owen Coughlan, takes place in a police state in the not-too-distant future. It will be produced by Walter Daroshin and directed by Gary Harvey.

#### **CANNELL STUDIO OPENS**

Cannell Films' mammoth North Shore Studios are scheduled to open in September. The 13.5 acre site will be Canada's largest film and TV production centre incorporating six sound stages, an insert stage, pre- and post-production facilities and 100,000 square feet of office space.

Manager Steve Brain says the new studios will be "complementary to the Dominion Bridge facility in Burnaby which is fully occupied most of the time." Cannell expects to use about one-third of the facility; the rest will be available to independent producers.

Meanwhile, Cannell's Vancouver-based series *Unsub* may not be back for another season. After eight weeks on NBC it was pulling only mediocre ratings south of the border. However, Cannell has produced two made-for-TV features here this summer: *I Love You Perfect* with Susan Dey of L. A. Law, and The Lady Forgets featuring Donna Mills of Knots Landing.

#### **BORDERTOWN PICKED-UP**

The U.S. Family cable Channel has renewed *Bordertown* for another 26 episodes and CTV has also picked up the series. The Alliance Entertainment production is also seen in France. It stars Canadians John Brennan and Richard Comar along with French actress Sophie Barjac.

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