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Shoot Alberta

LINDA EARL CHARLES MANDEL



CALGARY - An exhibition of 72 films and videos *From The Heart Of The Heart Of The Regions* opens at the Glenbow Museum Theatre for four consecutive weekends starting Sept. 16 through October 8. Co-curators, Leila Sujir and Vern Hume spent two and a half years researching and developing a concept to showcase the work of independent film and video artists and producers spanning the last 22 years. The 72 films are in eight thematic groupings with such titles as *Fables From the Real World*, *Signs of the Local* and *Catalytic Converter*.

"Place and difference were our starting point," says Sujir. Contrary to the traditional approach of shaping a curatorial focus and then searching out films and videos to fit the concept, Sujir and Hume allowed the "work to locate itself." The resulting exhibition represents eight "looks" or moments in the ongoing history of film and video in Canada.

From The Heart Of The Heart Of The Regions will be touring. For more information write or call: *From The Heart Of The Heart Of The Regions* c/o Mount Royal College, English Department 4825 Richard Road SW, Calgary, Alberta T3E 6K6 (403) 240-5925.

JAPANESE, CHINESE, BRITISH, ALL SHOOT CALGARY

Myriads of world press people have been flocking to Morley Flats to cover Haruki Kodokawa directing the epic battles scenes in his \$45 million samurai film, *Heaven and Earth*. (See On Location this issue).

Adding to the Asian influx is Golden Harvest Films of Hong Kong. Shooting began the second week of August on the \$1.8 million drama *Hand in Hand*. Calgary is the setting for this sensitive story about the cultural clash which occurs when a Chinese father comes to live with his very westernized realtor son.

Most of the crew are from Hong Kong but John Tchiang, the film's director, has lived in Calgary for the past three years. *Hand in Hand* will be shot silent and posted in Hong Kong. David Parker, Director of Film Services for the City of Calgary, says he's optimistic that *Golden Harvest* will produce many more films in the area.

Southern Alberta is full of great location surprises. Toronto art director Rick Roberts has transformed an old abandoned farmhouse just outside the small town of Grossfields, 30 minutes north of Calgary, into the perfect U.S., midwest setting for British writer, director, Philip Ridley's '50s love story *The Reflecting Skin*. Filming on the \$1.5 million picture continues through September. It stars young Vancouver actor Jeremy Cooper.

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INDIAN SUMMER IN PINCHER CREEK

EDMONTON - When the third annual Indian Summer World Festival of Aboriginal Motion Pictures kicks off in Pincher Creek, September 20 to 24, approximately 10 countries from around the world will be on hand to show off their talent.

As the festival's name implies, the event is designed to showcase films and videos by or about aboriginal peoples. In the past, the festival has premiered such films as Maurice Bulbulian's *Dancing Around the Table*, a documentary about the three First Minister Conferences on the Constitutional Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, as well as *Path Finder*, a Norwegian production on the legend of a young boy's fight to save his people from an enemy tribe.

This year's line-up promises to be just as stimulating. Countries submitting films include Australia, Brazil, Taiwan, and Thailand. Festival co-ordinator Robin Lawless is especially enthusiastic about an entry titled *As the Whales are Leaving*, made by an indigenous individual from the Soviet Union's Arctic region.

Other films competing for the four achievement awards offered by the festival include the highly acclaimed *Pow-Pow Highway*; an American production called *The Trial of Standing Bear*; and a television feature shot on southern Alberta's Blood Indian Reserve and titled *Where the Spirit Lives*.

Besides the films, the festival offers a number of workshops which, Lawless says, have been specifically set up to meet the requests of participants from the previous two years. The three, three-day workshops are largely of a technical nature and include Writing for Film, Actors and Acting, and Film Versus Video.

As well, the event features a large cultural component. Besides guided tours through a teepee encampment, dance exhibitions, and arts and crafts displays, festival participants can opt to stay in a rented teepee for the festival's duration.