

**CHRIS MAJKA**



**CENTRE FOR ART TAPES**

HALIFAX—I had to go all the way across the country—from Halifax to Banff—to find time to chat with visual artist **Chris Woods**, who has a studio only a few blocks from me. Since we had adjacent studios at Banff, I dropped 'round to see some of the footage he was shooting for a new video production. While there I also had an opportunity to view *Sanctuary of the Heart*, an experimental video which he produced last year as the recipient of a Centre for Art Tapes (CFAT) Video Production Scholarship which enabled him, and four other aspiring videographers, to produce their first tapes. It's a layered and multi-textured production with a hypnotic, percussive soundtrack created and recorded by Woods himself with the help of **Divia Prabhala**. CFAT has just announced that they will be offering these scholarships once again this year which include a \$500 honorarium and \$800 worth of production and post-production services at the Center. If you've ever wanted to plunge into video as an expressive and artistic medium, here's a golden opportunity!

**SKERRETT'S GLOBAL PROJECT**

Talking with **Bill Skerrett** on the phone the other day, he told me more about his recently unveiled 13-part environment series, *The Global Project*.

A hefty undertaking with a \$4.8 million budget, the series will include half-hours on Earthquakes, Volcanic Eruption, Floods, Landslides, Atmospheric Pollution, The Ozone Layer, Deforestation, The Greenhouse Effect, Coastal Problems, Ocean Pollution, Ocean Resources, Urban Groundwater and the Population Crisis. Whew—move over **David Suzuki**!

Executive producer Skerrett has put together a multi-national team of associate producers in France, Iceland, Sweden, Belgium, Australia, Great Britain and Spain who will help in gathering the mix of new material and stock footage which will be required—an international mix which is perhaps a first for an Atlantic-based production. Skerrett hopes to film and edit the series in 1990 for release in 1991. **Dr. Philip Hill**, a geologist who worked with Skerrett on his previous *Geology of Atlantic Canada* series, will provide the scientific expertise. **Luciano Lisi** will direct, while director/cinematographer **Niall Burnett** will be in charge of setting up the distribution network.

**LOST TREASURES**

In town this summer and searching for lost treasure were German filmmakers **Sylvio Heufelder** and **Volker Schertl**, the joint owners of the Munich and Berlin-based Tandem Filmproduktion. Their team has been trotting around the globe shooting segments of a multi-part series on lost treasures of the world for release this fall on German, Dutch and Swiss television Canadian distribution is pending.

**LUNENBURG'S REAL FOLKS**

Many listeners of CBC radio in the Maritimes are already familiar with the strains of folk music emanating from the apocryphal community of 'Folk Harbour' (perhaps right across the bay from **Stan Rogers'** Fogarty's Cove?). Each year some of the region's finest folk musicians, and many from 'away' too, gather in the *real* community of Lunenburg to sing the songs of the many cultures which skirt the broad Atlantic. This year CBC and Screen Star Entertainment have joined forces on a TV co-production which will hit the airwaves this fall in the Maritimes and the rest of Canada next summer. Directing the film will be CBC Toronto's **Donnalu Wigmore**. Incidentally, Festival co-founder **John Houston** is away in Amsterdam as A. D. on a commercial shoot which is taking him all over the continent and, rumour has it, to Singapore as well—ain't no flies on that boy!

**OTHER NOTES**

The Atlantic Filmmaker's Co-op and Wormwoods Dog & Monkey Cinema were shut down for five days in July when gas fumes, leaking from an adjacent service station, reached potentially explosive levels. No sparks flew and the situation has been brought under control.

The Independent Film and Video Alliance meetings which took place in Halifax in June were, I am told, considered by participants to be a success. Particularly valuable were the sessions with the Department of Communications and the NFB's Studio D and the workshops on Copyright and Access to Air Waves.

The Linda Joy Busby Media Arts Foundation is once again offering an award for Atlantic artists which it hopes will encourage, "the development of new and creative work in the media arts." This year the \$3,000 award is sponsored by Fuji Photo Film in addition to members of the Atlantic film industry.



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