

combine talents in the future.

Another area of interest was television. The question of how to compete with Kojack was placed before the group. Some suggestions were given but none which could not be shot down for financial reasons. There is little room for experimenting, a financial obligation to use anything produced, and a scarcity of funds to train talent. Nonetheless, the CBC was seriously talking of decentralization for the first time (to my knowledge) and of an increase in dramatic production.

CBC's intentions have been verified in Winnipeg by their plans to produce six one-hour and two-hour long dramatic productions locally. Production is slated to commence in February and all but one project is under Derek Goodwin, recently arrived from England. At present scripts have been commissioned from both local and international writers. The local writers include Bill Morantz and David King.

The National Film Board recently completed the first in a series of regional workshops for film directors seeking dramatic training. The workshop was held in Edmonton under the supervision of dramatic coach Israel Hicks. Manitoba participants were Leon Johnson, David Cherniack and Allan Kroeker. Other participants in the Western region were Terry Marner, Anne Wheeler and Michael Asti-Rose. The first workshop had each participant closely working with a single actor on an assigned monologue which was eventually shot and presented. The participants are now working on staging other scenes back at their home bases with which they will return to the next session in January. There are three sessions in all. From these sixteen people, four will be chosen for an intensive summer session

in Montreal.

The Winnipeg Film Group is also busy with its continuing dramatic workshop. The program has proven a tremendous success and has concentrated not only on production but also on the theory and business of film. The program coordinators are endeavouring not only to instill dramatic concepts and methods but also to focus on how one finds money to make movies and the proper ways of approaching people for funding.

Winnipeg's first 35mm feature film was recently unveiled. The film, **The Melting Pot**, premiered at the Playhouse theatre, a non-chain theatre, as the producers chose to distribute the film themselves. The film centres on the Winnipeg Flood of 1950 and truly deserves the tag of "disaster" film.

On a more optimistic note, the Winnipeg Film Group recently wrapped production on their comedy short, **Rabbit Pie**. The film is a period comedy

concerning the strange qualities which this culinary delight has in abundance. Directing chores were handled by Alan Kroeker.

Finally, a short quiz. What Famous (?) Canadian film director is planning to shoot a feature film this summer? The film will be shot in black and white and will utilize totally non-professional talent. It will be a low-budget film and there will be no CFDC funds involved.

**Len Klady**

## THE WEST COAST

It is not the easiest time to write a positive article on film in Vancouver since we have just gone through a provincial election that gives us a completely new Government. That in itself is not a cause for complete depression except that after several years of trying we had finally established a dialogue with the previous administration, and even had some Ministers come out in favour of a quota system. We will find out in the next few weeks, as the cabinet is decided upon, just what we have to deal with in terms of a liaison person.

Production here has not been plentiful this year but if one believes in listening to rumour 1976 looks good... Definitely slated is an International Cinemedia Centres Production, **Shadow of the Hawk**, produced by John Kemeny with Jack Smight directing. Shooting will start mid-January and continue through mid-March. This Canadian feature will star Chief Dan George, Jan Michael Vincent and Gwen Welles.

Other parts will be filled by Vancouver talent including Ross Vassarian, David Glynn-Jones, Paul Stanley, Len George and others. Bob Linnell is production manager.

Sally Patterson is now editing **The Keeper**, a low budget CFDC feature for which producer Don Wilson managed to secure Christopher Lee as star. Tom Drake wrote and directed this horror/suspense story.

American International Pictures is about to wrap a sci-fi/horror feature on Bowen Island. Director Burt Gordon managed to shoot through our entire monsoon season. Not the least of the horror on that shoot was an explosion involving our favorite special effects person John Thomas who is happily recovering. It will be some time before it is established whether or not he will require surgery on his eyes.

Canawest was hopping earlier this winter with two Twentieth Century episodes in an "Our Man Flint" series. The killer schedule called for 11 days on each shoot. Star Ray Danton was suddenly taken ill and returned to Los Angeles so there is currently only one episode in the can.

John Vidette and James Margellos were in town in late Autumn prepping a feature that unfortunately did not come together.

Some irate actors called me today in fury with the CBC. That in itself is nothing unusual in a talent/CBC relationship, but if this is true then it really is too much. We have just completed construction on magnificent new offices and studios for CBUT and there was some hope that local production might become a reality. Not so. According to the story, Don Eccleston is preparing to shoot an hour-long drama with hardly any local talent. Leads are coming in from the east to give local yokels a chance to work with some real performers to gain some experience! We hope this is just a nasty rumour.

On the rumour front AIP is supposed to be shooting another feature here in February... and there are whispers of a medium budget Universal feature for Spring.

Commercials continue to supply a source of income to film persons here. Busiest houses seem to be Bob Fleck's Take One Productions, Jubenville Embra, Bill Bratkowski and many freelancers, including Roy Hayter who cleaned up in Edmonton with multiple awards for his film **Alyeska**. Franz Russell has just started into production with Franz Russell & Associates and is doing nicely, thank you.

**Fiona Jackson**

(continued from p. 8)

Nielsen-Ferns, an independent Toronto company, whose hour-long documentary on Dostoyevsky with Malcolm Muggeridge filmed on location in Russia was shown on CBC Christmas day, reports that their series a **Third Testament** has been bought by PBS and the BBC. A book based on the series, produced by a Toronto company, will be published by Little, Brown in the U.S... Viewer response means Canada AM on CTV has been extended to two hours... Christopher Wood's Majestic Film Sales of L.A. has acquired **Eliza's Horoscope** for world distribution... René Simard, the French Canadian song star, has signed an exclusive TV development contract with Twentieth Century-Fox, starting with a prime-time special... TV Ontario has added transmitters in Kitchener and London... The hottest show on American TV is **NBC Saturday Night**, created by Canadians: producer is Lorne Michaels, actors include Dan Ackroyd and Gilda Radnor, musical director is Howard Shore, and so on. There's probably a good case to be made that a huge chunk of American TV is really Canadian, leading to the next question: what if they were all here? I don't think the answer would be a carbon copy of American TV.

In an important decision, the Quebec Appeal Court has upheld Kellogg's use of cartoons in TV ads, overturning a government ban that reduced film-makers' incomes substantially. The Quebec government says it will appeal to the Supreme Court, and hearings will be held this year. Kellogg says the law is unconstitutional because only Federal control regulates broadcasting, and furthermore these commercials were made in Ontario, bringing the

matter of interprovincial trade into the situation... In other litigation, Trevor Wallace's New World Productions has been sued by Daniel Mann and Alex North for not honouring contractual arrangements... Bushnell Broadcasting was sold to Standard Broadcasting, and the CFDC ordered Standard to sell Bushnell's Cable interests. But Bushnell minority shareholders took the decision to court and won, thereby, in some eyes, drastically lowering the power of the CRTC...

Thomas Vamos' NFB feature, **La fleur aux dents** was shown on Radio-Canada TV January 14 and got a luke-warm reception. The film is an adaptation from the novel of the same name, written by Gilles Archambault, and was written by Vamos and Pierre Turgeon. Claude Jutra played the leading role, seconded by Anne Dandurand and Lise LaSalle. The film was made in 16mm.

Another NFB film, **The Hecklers**, was aired on CBC-TV on Jan. 18. This hour-long documentary about the work of Canada's political cartoonists was conceived by Terry Mosher (Aislin) of the Montreal *Gazette*. Mosher worked closely with the producer-director Ian McLaren and with the script writer Ian Mayer. Although Joey Smallwood, John Diefenbaker, and Robert Stanfield were all interviewed, P.E. Trudeau refused to give his opinion of the cartoonists, these modern-day hecklers. The film received excellent reviews in Montreal.

**Results**

Domestic earnings (U.S. and Canada) for **Lies My Father Told Me** as of December 24, in the theatres, was \$794,229... the CBC has sold several **Performances** to Sweden, **Man Alive** to Holland, and **The Overlanders** to Norway...

**Magic Island**, a short produced by Elaine Ryan and directed by Ron Vester of Venture Film Productions, has been sold to Famous Players as a theatrical short... Famous Players, owned 48.8% by Canadian Cablesystems and the rest by Gulf and Western, showed a 54% increase in profits last fiscal year, mainly due to a 19% rise in theatre revenue. More people went, and paid higher prices to get in...

**Sweet Movie**, the Dusan Makavejev movie made here but banned everywhere but in Quebec is getting distribution in the U.S. via a small Berkeley firm, and opened in a correspondingly small New York theatre, with director on hand, recently.

No dollar results have been announced... **Lions for Breakfast** got eaten alive at the box office in Toronto. Five theatres reported only \$6000 income after a week at Christmas, the critics panned it, and after spending \$12,000 on ads, it was yanked... Stuart Gillard has been hired as a writer for the new Sonny and Cher TV show; he reports not a single Canadian offer, even after he won a Canadian Film Award... The Features Department at the CBC has been told to expect no work for at least twelve months. Head Thom Benson may be transferred, and others are being re-assigned...

Stephen Chesley

**Omissions and corrections** concerning the Feature Film Production Guide, printed on page 9 of issue no. 24.

The following four films were omitted from the list of features in production.

**The Rubber Gun Show**

1974 (Nov. 10) - 1975 (Feb.) 28 days  
16mm Colour (7247)  
loc. Montreal  
dial. English  
p.c. Spoon Film Regd.  
p. Allan Moyle  
d. Allan Moyle  
sc. Steven Lack  
ph. Frank Vitale  
ed. Allan Moyle  
l.p. Steven Lack; Pamela Holmes; Pierre Robert; Pamela Marchant; Peter Brawley; Allan Moyle

**Wilderness Trails**

1974 (Mar.) - 1975 (Sep. 5)  
16mm Colour  
lab. Alpha Cine Service Ltd. (Vancouver)  
Blowup: West Coast Film Optical (Vancouver)  
loc. Western Canada; Arctic  
dial. English  
p.c. Cotter Wildlife Productions  
exec. p. Paul Morton; I.H. Asper  
d. Gunter Henning  
sc. Frances Henning  
ph. George Carter  
ed. Edward Smith  
m. Victor Davies  
narrator George Carter

**Volcano**

1974 (Oct. 31) - 1975 (Aug. 7)  
16mm Colour (7247)  
lab. NFB (Mtl)  
loc. New York; Mexico; Vancouver; London; Liverpool; Ripe  
studio NFB (Mtl)  
dial. English  
p.c. National Film Board (Mtl)  
exec. p. James de B. Donville  
p. Donald Brittain; R.A. Duncan  
d. Donald Brittain with John Kramer  
research R.A. Duncan  
ph. Douglas Kiefer  
ed. John Kramer  
readings Richard Burton

**Moss Tarts**

1973 (Jun.-Aug.)  
16mm Colour (7254)  
loc. Oka; St-Adolphe d'Howard  
dial. English  
p.c. ADL Productions (Mtl); CFDC participation  
p. André Lamarre  
d. Robbie Malenfant  
sc. Robbie Malenfant  
ph. Paul van der Linden; Hugues Tremblay  
l.p. Laurie Pierce, Louise Rinfret

The following corrections are to be made to certain films listed in the last issue.

**Shoot**

p.c. Harmar Productions  
ph. Zale Magder  
ed. Ron Wisman

**Love at First Sight**

1975 (Nov. 2-Dec. 5)  
status: picture editing

**Death Weekend**

l.p. Don Granbery

**Chanson pour Julie**

ed. Avdè Chiriaeff

**Le Gars des vues**

This is the fifth film in the list. The title was obscured.