

IN TRANSIT

Chris Frank joins the Cultural Industries Branch of the Ministry of Communications as Chief of Film Policy. He follows Judith McCann in that post. (McCann, who is now with the Canadian Film Development Corp., had also headed up the Certification Office, a job now held by Robin Jackson.)

Martha Langford, formerly the NFB's senior producer in Ottawa, has been appointed Executive Producer of the Film Board's Stills Photo Division. Langford has previously produced several photographic

Altman due to shoot, then Fischer in Mtl

MONTREAL - Robert Altman will begin shooting *Easter Egg Hunt* in Montreal in early September.

The film will, reportedly, be a Canadian production, produced by Christophe Harbonville and Nicholas Clermont of Canamerican Filmcorp. Inc. who made *Reckless* last year.

Gilles Chartrand is executive producer and Jim Margellos, production supervisor.

This will be Altman's fifth feature, shot in Canada.

Producer Claude Léger (*The Lucky Star*) is teaming up again with director Max Fischer to make *The Neighbour*, a feature to be shot in Montreal and New York from July through September. Fischer and Leila Basen, former of R.S.L., wrote the screenplay.

In the works for next year is the first feature written by David Fennario. Past CBC-Crosscountry host Wayne Grigsby will be producing for Allan Nicholls, a Montreal musician who has been a member of the Altman entourage for many years.

exhibitions, including the award-winning catalogue for the show *Separate from the World: Meetings with Doukhorob - Canadians in British Columbia... John Kramer*, director and writer of *The Inheritance*, has been appointed to the NFB's Ontario Production office as head of production, effective in August...

Natalie Edwards, back in Toronto, will become executive director of the Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre July 1. Edwards, who opened the B.C. office of the CFMDC and infused the west with a taste for Canadian short films, follows Jane Gutteridge in the

position. Gutteridge leaves to take a post in the New York distribution office of the National Film Board of Canada.

Jules Stein, who built the Music Corporation of America from a booking agency into the largest entertainment conglomerate in the world, died in Los Angeles at age 85. MCA, which controls Universal Studios, MCA music and records, television and film distribution companies, music publishing houses is generally considered to be the organization which broke the studio contract system, with its precedent setting profit participation deal for Jimmy Stewart on *Winchester 73* in 1950.

Simcom into sales, comedy

TORONTO - Simcom Limited has acquired non-theatrical distribution rights to Film Consortium of Canada's *Stranger in the Night*. According to Peter Simpson, Simcom will be involved in the sales of the film and distribution to Pay-TV in the U.S. and free television in Canada.

This is Simcom's first involvement in the sale of a film from another producer. According to Simpson, "I liked the film very much - it's very faithful to the play - and I liked it from a marketing point of view. As you know, money was a little tight last year, and I've known Bill Marshall for many years. When he came to us with the project, we were interested."

Although Simcom has no plans to move full time into sales, Simpson admitted the possibility of working with other producers, if the time and package were right.

He also stated that *Curtains*, currently in post-production in Toronto, will be the company's last horror film. "I've spent the last two years killing people (*Prom Night* and *Curtains*), or trying to make them cry (*Melanie*). This year, I want them to hear laughter from the cutting rooms at Film House when we're in there."

Simcom plans to produce *Maggie and Pierre* for television, and is dealing with Linda Griffiths and Paul Thompson.



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