

Lease up, Beath out of Festival

TORONTO - The Festival Cinema, part of the three-theatre Toronto chain programmed by Linda Beath of New Cinema, has been sold. As New Cinema's lease essentially ended with the Festival of Festivals, the theatre will be operated by owner Bennet Fode until the close of the sale in April of 1982.

According to Beath, a variety of factors contributed to her decision to move out of the theatre as an exhibitor. "We couldn't commit to a first-run policy, and the rent was very high. In that neighborhood (Yonge Street south of Bloor), it is very difficult to compete. Running the theatre was economic suicide." Located in the heart of Toronto's first run dis-

trict, the Festival, which ran largely foreign product, was in competition with over 40 screens within a ten block area.

"The ideal for us," said Beath, "would be a pristine fourplex for first-run films. But it is difficult to find a location and construction costs are too high right now."

This does not mean a radical change in the theatre's policy, however. According to Beath, she will consult with Fode on the programming of the theatre, with the first film scheduled for after the Festival of Festivals - a moveover of *Lili Marleen* from the Fine Arts Cinema, where *Cutter's Way* will make its Canadian debut run.

\$31,900.*

ST 6001
All electronic 16/35



THE LATEST FROM STEENBECK

Only one deck for 16 & 35mm.
Push bottom changeover of picture track, speed, projection light & sound equalization.
30 Watt solid state amplifier with headphone jack and selectable dynamic compressor.
Up to 99 frames Advance/Retard on each sound track.
Crystal controlled for interlock to other equipment.

* ST 6001 less optional accessories, current exchange rate, duty tax exempt, for FOB Toronto.

Kingsway Film Equipment Ltd.

Head Office
821 Kipling Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5G8
Phone (416) 233-1101

MORE FROM LES

by Les Wedman

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s film development officer Justis Greene is hoping that his most recent excursion into Hollywood's Lotus Land will result in getting two filmmakers to B.C. who have reasons to be wary of making movies in Canada.

One is Robert Altman, whose *Quintet*, made a few years ago in Montreal under horrendous weather conditions, proved to be a box-office flop. The other is American-based Italian Dino Di Laurentiis, whose efforts to interest Canadian Film Development Corporation in linking up with him for film projects were met with very cold shoulders belonging to Michael McCabe, then executive secretary of the film funding CFDC.

Greene talked at length with Altman, who made Vancouver home with *That Cold Day in the Park*, and returned to do *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*. Even though he calls his production company Lion's Gate, Altman more than once said he would never work in B.C. again and he also has been quoted as saying Canadian nationalism gives him a pain in the ass.

His apparent change of heart may be because he has back with him now, again as production manager, Jim Margellos, Vancouver filmmaker who has been active on the Canadian film scene. Margellos, Greene believes, has had a steady influence on Altman.

The filmmaker recently sold his sound facilities in Los Angeles and keeps looking for new fields that might produce some green for him. Currently he is into live theatre, producing plays in Los Angeles he hopes to take to Broadway. That could lead to Altman filming live plays for Home Box Office television. Apparently he has one in mind now that Nicholas Claremont - the man associated with Linda Manz' *Out of the Blue* floperoo, might direct in Vancouver.

A couple of years ago Dino Di Laurentiis approached the CFDC about making a comic book film, *Conan*, in Canada. Even then Justis Greene hoped B.C. could get a piece of the

action.

For whatever concessions he wanted, whatever monetary assistance he asked for, Di Laurentiis - as a foreigner he couldn't qualify to make films with CFDC participation - promised to build in Canada sound stages and a filmmaking school. McCabe firmly rejected his advances.

In the ensuing fracas Di Laurentiis' daughter, Raphaela Di Laurentiis, so it's reported, was referred to as a "California bimbo." At least she remembers the expression and she reminded Greene of it, asking him whether the term still applied.

She gave him "strong indications" that she would be interested in filming in B.C. and Greene still is working on that possibility. Meanwhile *Conan* has been finished - John Milius directing - and it stars muscleman Arnold Schwarzenegger for whom Vancouver certainly is more than a place on a map.

Twelve million dollars will be spent on three movies to be made in B.C. this fall by American companies, one starring Bette Davis, another Suzanne Pleshette and the third, Sylvester (Rocky) Stallone.

The 73-year-old Grand Dame of the screen will star in an EMI Television film produced by Paul Cameron, who last worked in Vancouver with Daryl Duke on *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*.

Suzanne Pleshette, the wife in the long-running Bob Newhart Show on TV, also makes a two-hour television comedy for Quinn-Martin Productions. It's called *Help Wanted: Male*.

The Sylvester Stallone film is the only theatrical release. It is *First Blood*, produced by Andy Vajna.

It now looks like a September start for Fraser Heston's *Motherlode* mining drama that's been a frustrating delayed action project for the young writer and producer now living in West Vancouver.

Canadian actor Nick Man-

cuso - his latest movie, *Ticket to Heaven*, should be in release here later in the fall - will star.

But what's more interesting is that *Motherlode* will be directed by Charlton Heston, who also will have one of the five speaking parts in the picture that his son wrote for him. Fraser Heston's first screen feature was *The Mountain Men* that also starred his father and Brian Keith.

Actor Heston has only directed once before, and that was *Antony and Cleopatra*, made in Spain, with him as Antony. Son Fraser was assistant director on that project.

Reason for the long delay for *Motherlode*, which was scheduled to shoot here last winter, is money, mainly. Toronto producer Danny Fine apparently now has it all together and Heston expects *Motherlode* to go from "on hold" to green light action after a couple of weeks of pre-production planning. The film will be shot entirely on location a short distance from Vancouver up the Squamish Highway.

If and when *Motherlode* gets going, it will boost the lagging production record for films in B.C. this year. A second unit shoot for Robert Wagner's *Hart to Hart* TV series is welcome, according to film development officer Justis Greene, but he needs and keeps wooing bigger action.

Working in Stewart, B.C.'s northern mining town that's become a Movie Mecca, is John Carpenter, Hollywood's royally recognized king of the horror flick. He is doing a new version of *The Thing* and using Stewart for exterior shots. Interiors will be shot in Utah.

After Carpenter clears out of Stewart a British-Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer co-production movie goes in. It's called *Eureka!* and will shoot in November-December, in Stewart and in Barkerville for nine weeks.

So many other projects have been talked about and proposed but right now the action in the B.C. film industry is as slow as it's been in three years.

Synero Sound Ltd

STUDIO & EDITING ROOMS

16/35 MIXING & TRANSFER
VOICE BOOTH
XENON PROJECTION

STEENBECKS
KEM
MOVIOLAS

67 PORTLAND ST. TORONTO M5V 2M9 AREA 416 PHONE 363-9421