

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

CALGARY - *The Ruffian*, a \$5 million France-Canada co-production, roughs it on location in Western Canada from August 9 to September 4, then returns to Montreal for 5-6 weeks. The action-adventure about a miner's chase for lost gold is produced by René Malo of Corporation Image M et M. John Scott is production manager for western locations at Invermere and Golden, B.C. Lino Ventura, Claudia Cardinale and August Schellenberg star in the film, which is written and directed in French by Jose Giovanni.

Escape from the Creep Zone (changing the early tattoo of *Road Gangs*), a sci-fi action adventure, plans to shoot in Calgary, Drumheller and southern Alberta in late September. Joe Thornton is unit location manager for director Jean LaFleur and production manager Phil McPhedran of Zone Productions.

Meanwhile, *Running Brave* (which was *Indian* in an earlier incarnation) has ruffled a few feathers in Alberta, according to some members of the film industry here. Although the \$8 million budget originated with the Erminskin band of Hobbe-ma, Alberta, apparently, few of the key personnel hired have been Albertans.

Don Shebib (*Heartaches*)

Humongous opens via Astral Films

TORONTO - Astral Films will release Canadian-produced horror-thriller *Humongous* in Calgary and Edmonton September 10, in Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver September 17, and in Toronto, Ottawa, and Southern Ontario October 1, according to a company spokesman.

Directed by Paul Lynch and written by William Gray, the film stars Janet Julian, David Wallace, Janet Baldwin, and Joy Boushel. It is produced by Anthony Kramreither, executive producer M.M. ("Mickey") Stevenson.

Humongous was released in the U.S. earlier this summer by Embassy Films, and has made over \$1.5 million on the east coast, according to Kramreither.

Rogers invests in cable decoders

TORONTO - Rogers Cablesystems, Inc., has signed a long-term agreement with Zenith Radio Corporation for addressable cable television decoders to be used in Rogers Pay TV operations in Canada.

directs Robby Benson (as Billy Mills) for Englander Productions of Los Angeles. (Mills, a Sioux Indian from South Dakota, won a gold medal in the 10,000-metre race at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.) The film shoots from August 8 to mid-October in the Edmonton and

Drumheller area and Kansas.

Bette Chadwick (a real live Albertan) of the Other Agency Casting Limited, handles Alberta casting for Deirdre Bowen of Toronto. The production company will create the crowd sequences for a track meet by giving away 2500 tickets to an Edmonton Driller/San Diego Sockers game to potential extras.

Meanwhile, both *Superman III* and *Chautauqua Girl* are gearing up for simultaneous August 17 starts in Calgary, despite less than smooth travels with unions. *Chautauqua Girl*, a two-hour CBC television movie, was postponed by last year's national NABET strike, and *Superman III* has been the subject of a jurisdictional dispute between IATSE and Teamsters regarding the drivers (with

IATSE, for the present, behind the wheels). Meanwhile, some Calgary actors face the novel (and euphoric) experience of being in demand for both shoots.

As well, the three-part CBC mini-series *Vanderberg* will shoot in Calgary in October, bringing the number of major productions on location in Alberta in summer/fall '82 to a grand total of six.



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NEWS

An eclectic collection of four NFB films will be screened at Toronto's Festival of Festivals September 9 - 18. The films are about chess, about a Canadian artist, about finding one's double, and about nuclear disarmament.

The chess film is Gilles Carle's latest feature documentary, *The Great Chess Movie*, which premiered in French (*Jouer Sa Vie*) during the Montreal World Film Festival last month. The film is a panoramic view of the centuries old game of wit and patience, linking chess with history and present day international politics. The spotlight is on the world champions: Bobby Fischer, the American «Wiz Kid», who lost his championship by default; Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet player subsidized by his government and referred to by some as the «Martian»; and Viktor Kortchnoi, who left home and family to play chess in the West. NFB cameras capture the action at international tournaments and at the World Championship in Merano, Italy where Karpov and Kortchnoi faced each other last fall. *The Great Chess Movie* was co-directed by Carle and Camille Coudari; Hélène Verrier was the producer.

The Canadian artist is Paraskeva Clark, the subject of Gail Singer's *Portrait of An Artist as an Old Lady*. The film is a cameo of the irascible Clark, now in her eighties, still drink-



Three of the key «players» in *The Great Chess Movie*. From left to right director, Gilles Carle; Soviet world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov; and NFB producer Hélène Verrier.

ing beer, cursing and flirting. In the film she speaks freely of her life and unabashedly confronts friends and strangers alike with her outspoken views on art, capitalism and the existential problems of being a woman. Feminist Germaine Greer is the narrator.

In *End Game in Paris* Veronika Soul takes on the formidable task of illustrating fragments and ideas from Ian Adams novel of the same name. Both the book and the film explore Adam's belief that «... any of us could encounter our double.» Soul

has already established herself in the field of animation. This is her first live-action drama.

The consequences of nuclear war is the subject of Terri Nash's film *If You Love This Planet*. The film combines the words of Dr. Helen Caldicott, National President of Physicians for Nuclear Responsibility, with archival footage of Hiroshima. *If You Love This Planet* has already drawn large audiences in Toronto and New York, where it was screened during Nuclear Disarmament week last June.

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