

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

In December, the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation (AMPDC) hosted a cocktail party to celebrate the official opening of its offices in Canmore. Corporation president Lorne MacPherson commenced the ceremony which included cutting of film across the office doorway, and introduction of the board of directors and industry advisory board. The AMPDC will operate as a bank to lend a percentage of development money to Alberta-based producers. Canmore (near Banff) was chosen as the site for the corporation because office space in Banff was unavailable.

So far, two projects have received loans (repayable on the first day of principal photography) while six more have been approved. In the meantime, 1982 closed with the image of Alberta filmmakers from north and south driving the icy roads of the Rockies trying to find that office with that pot of gold.

An air of mourning, rather than celebration, prevailed in late December when Tri-Media

Studios in Calgary called a press conference to announce a suspension of activities. After 1981's federal budget and the subsequent loss of investors (because of the removal of the tax shelter similar to a MURB for the project) Tri-Media president Alan Waldie approached the provincial government for financial assistance. However, that assistance was refused, despite initial government interest in the project, including support of the annexation of its 700 acres to the city of Calgary. Waldie expressed disappointment in the decision from Hugh Planche, Minister of Economic Development, and announced the layoff of 30 staff members. "We are in deep shock," said Waldie. "We find it difficult to continue with Tri-Media Studios." Construction on the site had been stalled again and again, although the land had been cleared. The group has an \$11 million bank debt, and may sell part of its land if alternate financing is not found very soon.

Blood Relations, the play about Lizzie Borden which won the Governor General's Award for its author Sharon Pollock, will go before the cameras in February in Calgary. The \$1.5 million television movie (for CFCN productions) will be produced by Bob Barclay and directed by Silvio Narizzano... *Wild Pony*, a drama for First Choice pay-TV, finished its December shoot in Heritage Park in Calgary with director Kevin Sullivan and a cast which includes Marilyn Lightstone, Art Hindle, Jack Ackroyd and Paul Jolicoeur... *Latitude 55*, the first feature directed by actor-director-producer John Juliani, has received favorable reviews in its advance screenings. The \$800,000 film, shot in and near Edmonton with stars Andrée Pelletier and August Schellenberg, is the only Alberta feature eligible for this year's Genie Awards... Nick Bakya of

Tinsel Media is contemplating a summer shoot in the Crownstnet Pass for *Emperor Pic*, a CFCN/CFRN/Tinsel Media/Pri-Media co-production... The NFB has been screening *Standing Alone*, a documentary about Pete Standing Alone, a Blood

Indian from the Cardston reserve. Colin Low directed the study of a man caught between two worlds - the 19th century horse culture of the Plains Indian and the energy politics of the 1980's... Video Pack Limited in Edmonton has changed

ownership. Allarcom Limited's purchase of the company will change Video Pack from a full service production house to a state-of-the-art film and videotape post-production centre, with a Bosch flying spot scanner.

Super 8 fest

MONTREAL - The fourth Quebec International Festival of Super 8 Film will be held in Montreal at the Cinémathèque québécoise Feb. 22-27, to be followed by a tour of eight Quebec cities in March.

As in previous years, the festival will have three levels of competition - intercollegial, national and international - as well as workshops and hors-concours programs.

Of the 73 Québécois films submitted, the selection jury picked eight for the intercollegial category and 12 for presentation in the national competition.

At the international level, 16 countries, including Germany, England, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Venezuela, the United States, Belgium, France and Tunisia, have so far confirmed their participation.



COMMUNICATION STUDIES

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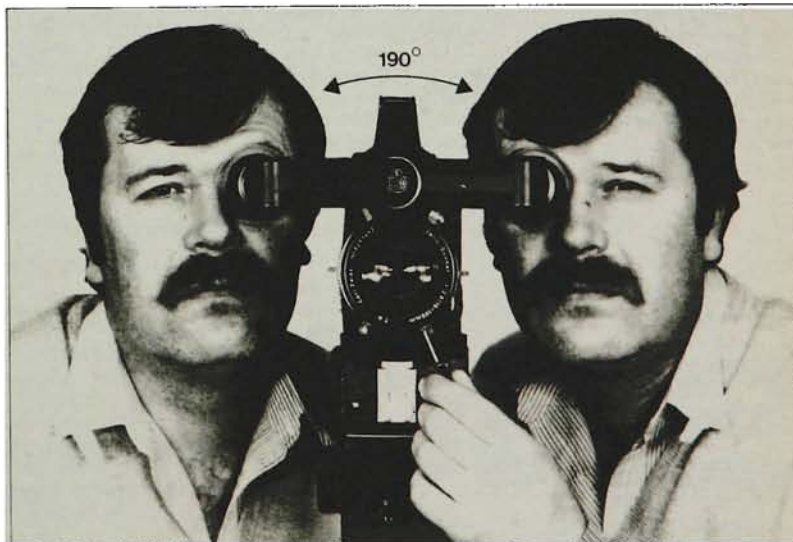
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