

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

Draw, a \$4 million western for pay television, will shoot up the streets of historic Fort Edmonton for six weeks in August and September. Production manager Grace Gilroy reports that producer Ron Cohen plans an August 15 start. Stephen Stern (*Running*) will direct Kirk Douglas and James Coburn in the comedy adventure for Astral Film Productions.

Meanwhile, Thomas Ben Films of Edmonton have completed shooting a low-budget (\$350,000) non-union comedy feature titled *Maharishi*. Writer-producer-director Isaac Thomas also played the leading role on the June 13 to July 7 shoot.

Dave Crowe has been appointed the new manager of the Film Industry Development Office for the City of Calgary, replacing Malcolm Harvey, who resigned in April. Diane Rogers will manage the Calgary office of The Other Agency Casting Limited. Trudy Bell is

production secretary on *The Next to Last Train Ride* (working title) to be directed by Richard Lester in the Calgary area in August and September. Doug MacLeod is location manager. John Scott has returned from Louisiana and a stint on stunts and transportation on the film of the same name. Cinema Femina, a directory of women in film and video in western Canada, is now in print, released in conjunction with Celebration of Women in the Arts, and coordinated by Avrel Fisher. Don Truckey of Calgary will see his script about the justice system produced by CBC's *For the Record*.

Among the world premieres at the Banff Television Festival are *The Secret Adversary* (London Weekend Television); *Pygmalion* (Astral Bellevue Pathe and First Choice); *The Third Wave* (TV Ontario/NHK/Triwave); and *Double Play* (CFCN Productions). *Double Play* was the centre of a legal

dispute when Sharon Pollock, award-winning author of the play, "Blood Relations," on which the script was based, clashed with CFCN and producer Bob Barclay regarding the screenplay. A series of much publicized court appearances and legal shenanigans resulted in an out-of-court settlement. Result? A new title and agreement not to discuss the details.

"Television and the Rules," the law seminar to be held at the Banff Festival, has been organized by a committee headed by Garry Toth. Steve Levitan will chair the seminar, which will deal with the role of the Canadian entertainment lawyer. Also on the schedule is "Market Realities for Independent Producers," sponsored by the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation.

Other seminars of industry interest are: "Canada: Television in Transition" with CBC's Bill Armstrong, CTV's Murray Chercover, and First Choice's Don MacPherson; "Coproductio: TV Deals Around the World" with Astral's Harold Greenberg; and "US Television: State of the Nation".

Kicking Horse tours China

VANCOUVER - A Canadian television crew, now in the midst of a 20-day, five-city tour of the People's Republic of China, plans to return with 20 hours of videotape for both commercial and non-broadcast use.

Bob Spence of Kicking Horse Productions in Vancouver has received an exclusive invitation from the China International Travel Service in New York and Beijing to visit and videotape events in Beijing, Shanghai, Zhengjiang, Nanjing, Tai Shun and Shandong Province. A three-person crew will travel with Spence: field director Timothy Dean; cameraman Paul Rowand; and audio technician Darrell Patton.

The resulting footage will find multiple uses: a one-hour television special with stories on trade, banking, transportation and tourism; an educational television production; a series of 10-15 minute segments for non-broadcast use by government and business groups; and footage available to various producers for updating purposes.

The production is independently financed. "We decided to go it on our own on this one because we think the resulting footage will make it worthwhile," says Arvi Liimatainen,

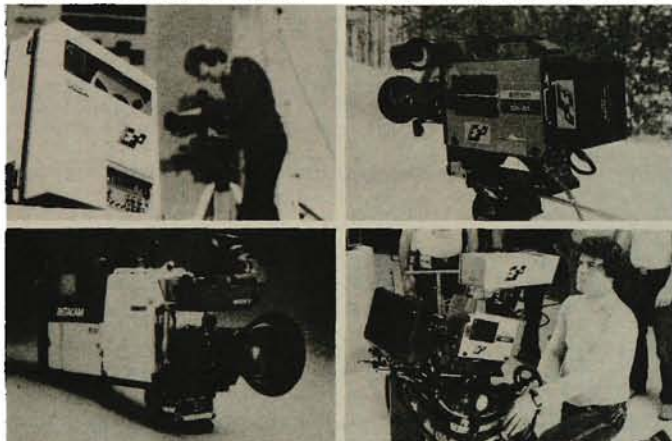
one of the four principals in Kicking Horse Productions. The others are Spence (in Vancouver) and Grace Gilroy and Douglas Cole (in Edmonton).

Other projects down the trail for Kicking Horse are: *Ilya Gerol*, a weekly series of editorials for international syndication; *Jack Be Nimble*, a television feature detective story; *Hill 140*, a 100th anniversary history of the British Columbia Regiment; *Slug Addiction*, a television feature rock'n'roll parody; and *The Burlesque Show*, a situation comedy.

Steinberg pic to premiere in Nov.

TORONTO - *Going Berserk* (formerly *Drums Over Malta*), the feature comedy directed by David Steinberg and starring John Candy, Joe Flaherty, and Eugene Levy, has been scheduled for a Nov. 11 release, according to a spokesman for the film's distributor, Universal Films.

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