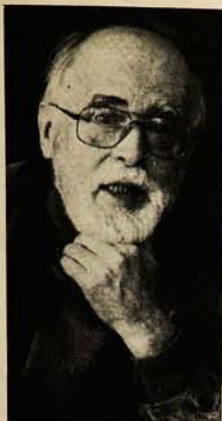


**Blackburn wins top award for musical moviemaking**

Composer Maurice Blackburn has been awarded the Prix Albert-Tessier, the highest award given by the Quebec government in the field of cinematic distinction.

Blackburn, who retired from the National Film Board in 1980 after 40 years, has composed the music for Film Board films since 1942, often collaborating with animator Norman McLaren who was awarded the Prix Albert-Tessier last year. This is the second year in a row that the award has been honored. Born in Quebec City in 1914, Blackburn studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. His most-recent composition was the music for McLaren's 59th animated film, *Narcissus*.



The Prix Albert-Tessier includes a \$15,000 award. In 1980 it was awarded to Quebec filmmaker Arthur Lamothe and in 1981, to producer Pierre Lamy.

**Mignot, film techs honored in Montreal**

Pierre Mignot, cameraman for such films as *Marie Chapdelaine* and *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, and director of photography for *Corbetta* and *J.A. Martin, Photographe*, has been named the Great Montrealer of the future in the field of cinema.

On Sept. 8 an independent jury recognized Mignot for the excellence of his work, with both major foreign directors such as Robert Altman or novice Canadian directors, as well as in big- and small-



budget films, said Reginald Groome, chairman of the board and president of Hilton Canada and general manager of the Queen Elizabeth, who initiated the Great Montrealer salute in 1978. The jury praised Mignot's "sensitivity", adding that it also wished to honor film technicians generally. Mignot was chosen from among 10

candidates.

Born Feb. 23, 1944, Mignot has spent 17 years in the field of cinema, and is currently shooting another film for Altman.

From 1979 to 1983, he worked as a freelance cameraman on such films as *Mario s'en va-t-en guerre, Streamers, Lucien Brouillard, Le Toasteur, Une Journée en taxi, Une Aurore boréale, De Jour en Jour, La Bien-aimée*, and *Espace d'un été*.

He has filmed more than 100 commercials for Les Productions du Verseau, Les films 24, Onyx Film, Téléscènes, and S.D.A. Productions.

As cameraman for the National Film Board of Canada from 1967 to 1979, Mignot filmed more than 15 documentaries. During the same stage in his career, he worked as director of photography on 10 films.

As assistant cameraman for the National Film Board of Canada, Mignot filmed four works of fiction and seven documentaries.

In 1966 and 1967, as second cameraman for Delta Film, he shot two CBC productions. He has also worked as assistant film-cutter for Michel Brault's *Entre la mer et l'eau douce* and directed *Sous le vent* for the National Film Board of Canada.

**Beryl Fox addresses grads at Western convocation**

Veteran Canadian filmmaker Beryl Fox will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and address the graduating class at the University of Western Ontario's Fall Convocation Oct. 28 in London, Ont.

According to the university, Fox is to be honoured for "her brilliant contributions to the Canadian film industry as a writer, producer, and director of documentary and feature films."

Fox began her career with the CBC in 1961 and became a producer and director on the public affairs program *This Hour Has Seven Days*. In 1965, she became the first woman to film the Vietnam War, producing the award-winning documentary *Mills of the Gods*.

Fox has been a producer with Hobel-Leitner Productions, the Ontario Educational Communications Authority, and the National Film Board. In 1976, she was named director of program development for

the NFB's Ontario region.

Turning her efforts to feature films during the late 1970's, Fox produced two projects, the screen adaptation of Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing*, and the sex comedy *By Design*, both directed by Claude Jutra.

Since *By Design*, Fox says she's committed to comedy, and currently is working on a musical comedy, *Sol*, for television. "The sound of people laughing at your film when they're supposed to be laughing is very satisfying," she says.



**Off drugs and booze, Shaver happy at last**

Driving home from the set of director Sam Peckinpah's *The Osterman Weekend* in Hollywood late last year, it came to the attention of Canadian actress Helen Shaver that she felt very, very happy.

"I thought, 'Here I am working with John Hurt, Dennis Hopper, Rutger Hauer, Meg Foster, Craig T. Nelson, Burt Lancaster, and Sam Peckinpah,'" said the actress. "And I realized I felt like I was a worker among workers - that I was with my peers."

Admirers of the lovely St. Thomas, Ont. native might say she has few peers, given her sexy performance as an alcohol and cocaine addicted doctor's wife in *Osterman*, which Twentieth Century-Fox opened in Canada Oct. 7. Shaver, who says she hasn't touched drugs or drink in 3 1/2 years, credits Peckinpah in creating "a safe enough environment" for her to explore the role. "He directs you very much on a non-verbal level," she said. "He just knows."

After *Osterman* wrapped last December, Shaver worked for free on *Access All Areas*, a short film directed by Jenny Sullivan for the Women Director's Workshop of the American Film Institute, and appeared in Toronto for the 1983 Genie Awards - but her time was also spent coming second on a lot of big roles.

However, her wait was worth it. Paramount recently signed Shaver to co-star with Dudley Moore and Eddie Murphy in the comedy *Easy Way Out*, written by *American Graffiti* screenwriters

Williard Huych and Gloria Katz, which starts shooting Oct. 27 in Los Angeles.

Shaver is disappointed she had had no offers from Canadian producers since last year, when she turned down a role she wanted in Astral's *Miri* because it conflicted with the *Osterman* shoot. A project she "would love to do" is *West Light*, the screen adaptation of Thomas Raddall's novel *The Nymph and The Lamp*.

**Ross McLaren off to Holland**

Experimental filmmaker Ross McLaren of Toronto will spend December and January in Amsterdam as his city's recipient of the 1983 Toronto Amsterdam Exchange Award.

Established in 1976, the

award provides the opportunity for artists from Toronto and Amsterdam to live and work in each other's cities. It is administered by the Albert Franck Committee, appointed by City of Toronto Council.

McLaren, a graduate of the Ontario College of Art, founded Toronto's only permanent forum for experimental and avant-garde film, *The Funnel*, in 1977, and served as the centre's resident director/programmer for three years. His films have been screened throughout North America and Europe, and are also included in the permanent collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Gallery of Canada, the Arts Council of Great Britain, and the American Federation of Arts.

The Dutch recipient of the award, Christine Koenigs, arrived in Toronto Sept. 2 and is producing a film during her visit. Portions of this work-in-progress and some of her earlier films will be screened Oct. 14 at *The Funnel*.



**Cournoyer nets CFDC PR spot**



As part of the Canadian Film Development Corporation's expanding role Canadian film and television production, Armand Cournoyer has been appointed director of marketing, distribution and public relations.

Cournoyer's appointment, announced Sept. 28 by CFDC executive director André Lamy, became effective Oct. 11.

Cournoyer's responsibilities will include promoting Canadian film and television products at national and international festivals and markets, as well as acting as a consultant to Canadian distributors and producers.