

## SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupeczek

*Change of Heart*, a one-hour drama shooting in Vermilion, Alberta, is aptly named, for the title could apply not only to the emotional evolution portrayed in its story, but also to the CBC's most recent attempt to fulfill its mandate in the regions.

Slated for the For the Record series in March '84, *Change of Heart* is a co-production between CBC and the NFB North West Studio. The result of two years of continuing conversations between CBC producer Anne Frank and the NFB's Tom Radford, the production (budgeted roughly at \$300,000 to \$350,000) shot Oct. 24 to Nov. 9.

Anne Frank, an ex-Albertan, was interested in utilizing Alberta talent, particularly Anne Wheeler (*War Story*) as director. The script was written by Sharon Riis (*Latitude 55*) who lives in Lac La Biche. The cast includes Joy Coghill, Ken James, Joy Thompson, Susan Stackhouse and Edmonton actors Paul Wood, David Sivertsen and Warren Graves. Casting was handled by CBC's Gail Carr and The Other Agency Casting Limited in Alberta. "They did a splendid job. We're very, very happy," says Frank of Bette Chadwick in Edmonton and Diane Rogers in Calgary.

Production manager is Doug Smith, and DOP is Richard Leiterman. Script supervisor is Penny Hynam. Designer David Moe found the location at a farm in Vermilion, two hours from Edmonton.

"We've put together a fantastic crew out here," says Frank. "I look forward to doing it again."

Ron Brown has been appointed General Manager of Operations for ACCESS. Brown, formerly president/producer Century II Motion Pictures Ltd., has been actively involved in the Alberta industry for a number of years, including stints with AMPIA and CFTA. The appointment of Brown is a result of the restructuring of ACCESS initiated by new president Peter Senchuk.

Taking Control: A Positive Approach to Television for Educators and Parents, a symposium sponsored by the Calgary Board of Education, featured speakers Gary Toth of Toth and Associates, and Patricia Mahon of Superchannel... Super organizer and actress Jan Miller is putting together Symposium '84, "Local Heroes", for Edmonton in February. Invited guests include Bill Forsythe, David Puttman, Bruce

Beresford, Joan Micklin Silver, Phil Borsos and John Sayles... *Storm*, a low-budget drama by producers Michael Kevis and David Winning of Groundstar Productions, has wrapped in Calgary... Randy Bradshaw has returned from a stint in Toronto on the CBC series, *Judge*; William Marsden of the Provincial Film Office has returned from a jaunt to England in the name of promotion; and Maxine Samuels has returned to John Ware country from the east.

## Toronto news in brief

TORONTO - *The Terry Fox Story* earned four nominations for the U.S. Cable Television Association Awards, to be presented Dec. 12 in Los Angeles. Nominations include best picture, best feature director (Ralph Thomas), best actor (Robert Duvall), best script (Ed Hume) ... Pan Canadian has acquired Canadian film and TV rights to director Phillip Jackson's feature *Music of the Spheres* ... *Snow*, a 13-minute short directed by Tibor Takacs and written by Stephen Zoller, has been picked up by Columbia Pictures and will be distributed with their Christmas releases.

CBC-TV's co-production with Jim Henson Associates, *Fraggle Rock*, seen in over 60 countries, has been nominated in the children's category for a 1983 International Emmy Award... Director Donald Brittain's NFB documentary on the elderly, *Something to Celebrate*, will be telecast on CBC Dec. 18... 20 episodes of the CBC series *Seeing Things*, starring Louis Del Grande, have been sold to WNET New York and will be seen beginning Nov. 5 on over 25 U.S. stations... The premiere of the second season of Alcliff Prod.'s *Fighting Words* on CHCH-TV has been rescheduled to Dec. 1... Among Vestron Video's December U.S. releases is *The Terry Fox Story*.

*The Incubus*, 1981 Canadian feature starring John Cassavettes, played two weeks at Cineplex in Toronto after opening Oct. 14, distributed by Pan Canadian... Nelvana Ltd.'s series *Inspector Gadget* will premiere on First Choice in January. Also scheduled on the national pay service early in the new year is Tapestry Production's *Maggie & Pierre*, starring Linda Griffiths... *The Bamboo Brush*, a half-hour drama directed by Sturla Gunnarson for Atlantis Films, has won top prizes in its categories at the Columbus International Film Festival and the Vancouver International Children's Film Festival... *Iceman*, shot in B.C. earlier this year produced by Norman Jewison and Patrick Palmer and directed by Fred Schepisi, is tentatively scheduled for a spring release by Universal.

## Culture agencies' revolving door

TORONTO - The revolving door atop Canada's cultural agencies continues to turn, as key appointments to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) followed confirmation that government film commissioner and National Film Board chairman James Domville will not serve a second term after his present five-year mandate expires Jan. 2.

While a new government film commissioner has not yet been named, Francis Fox advisor Sandra McDonald told Cinema Canada, "There will have to be a government film commissioner who will have to implement the film policy." But according to informed sources, the long-awaited Film Policy, promised for the end of the year, will now not be out until March.

André Bureau, president of Canadian Satellite Communications Inc. (CanCom) has been appointed to replace John Meisel as chairman of the CRTC, and will assume the post Nov. 16. Meisel resigned last month in the middle of his seven-year term and will return to teaching at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.

Bureau, president of CanCom since Aug. 31, is a lawyer from Trois Rivières, Qué., and has been vice-president of the Montreal French-language daily *La Presse* and president of the Quebec broadcasting firm Télémedia Inc. He comes to the job recommended by Communications minister Francis Fox for his understanding of the rapidly changing communications industry.

Denis Harvey, current head of CBC-TV network sports programming, has been named to replace Peter Herrndorf as vice-president of the English language television network. Harvey will take office Nov. 14, but Herrndorf will remain with the CBC as a consultant until the new year, when he is scheduled to become publisher of *Toronto Life* magazine, a position he is not expected to hold for too long. According to reliable sources in the CBC, Herrndorf, after a recent meeting with Opposition leader Brian Mulroney, has been promised the Communications portfolio in the next Conservative government.

Another CBC executive retiring at year's end is veteran English network programmer Norm Garriock.

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