

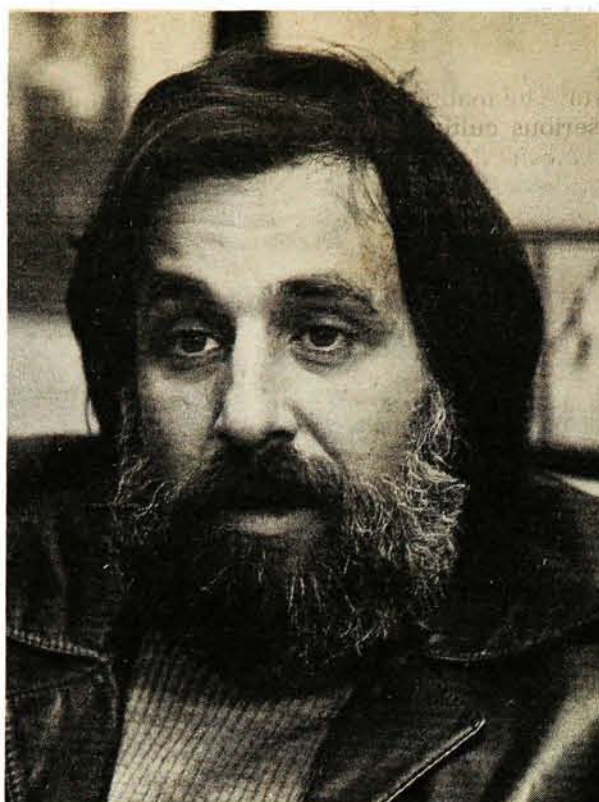
## Macerola to helm NFB

François Macerola has been named Acting Film Commissioner of the National Film Board of Canada, and will take up his post Jan. 8, 1984 when the five-year term of current Film Commissioner James de B. Domville comes to a close. Contrary to published reports, Macerola's tenure will not be re-evaluated every three months but will simply run until a permanent Film Commissioner is named. This latter appointment is expected to follow the announcement of a federal film policy sometime in the spring.

"The role of an interim commissioner is simply to see that things keep running smoothly," Macerola told Cinema Canada. He has offered to take an active role in the creation of the film policy, and expects to make his

voice heard in Ottawa in the short time remaining before the policy goes to Cabinet. As for the other published reports about sweeping changes he would make - eliminating branch offices, pumping more money into production, etc. - Macerola explained that these ideas are contained in a position paper he prepared last fall, and are not necessarily actions he plans to take immediately.

Trained as a lawyer and accepted at the Bar in 1971, Macerola has worked in both distribution and production at the NFB, serving as head of French production from 1976-1978. Currently Deputy Film Commissioner, he is one of the few NFB senior executives in recent years to have maintained a vigorous public posture.



## Yellowknife honors Yukon-born Margot Kidder

The City of Yellowknife has invited one of its most famous natives, actress Margot Kidder, to return to the Yukon next summer as guest of honour at the city's 50th anniversary celebrations, June 23-July 7.

Best known for her Lois Lane roles in *Superman* and *Superman II*, Kidder was born in Yellowknife but left with her family as an infant. She began her acting career at 16 in Vancouver, working in local TV, then was cast in her first feature role by another Canadian, director Norman Jewison, in *Gaily, Gaily*.

Kidder's Canadian film

credits include Peter Pearson's 1968 NFB drama *The Best Damn Fiddler from Calabogie to Kaladar*, Don Shebib's 1981 feature *Heartaches* (for which she won a Genie Award for best actress), and most recently, this year in ICC's Canadian-French co-production, *Louisiana*. After principal photography was completed, Kidder married *Louisiana*'s director Philippe de Broca Aug. 6 in Vert, France.

In February, Kidder will co-star with Burt Lancaster in *A Little Treasure*, a Tri-Star production scheduled to shoot in Mexico, written and directed by Alan Sharp.



● Margot Kidder in *Heartaches*

## Ordeal doesn't swamp Rowe



Canadian director Peter Rowe and camera crew travelled to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, looking for trouble - big, 30-foot waves of trouble - and they found plenty.

Searching since April for the right place, the right boat, the right time, Rowe and Co. set out Dec. 7 straight into a North Atlantic storm which on the day would founder three large freighters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Aboard the *Ferno*, a 40-ft. Cape Island boat skippered by Keith Lohnes, their task was to shoot storm footage for an upcoming TV feature *Lost*, based on the shipwreck story by the late Thomas Thompson.

During the shoot, waves smashed the boat's superstructure and winds snapped off a 16-ft. radio

aerial. An overworked bilge pump burned out, leading to an on-board electrical fire. Skipper Lohnes cursed he would never do a movie charter again.

Safely ashore in Toronto, film skipper Rowe described the ordeal of "quite hairy." Film designer Tony Lohnes was more voluble: "It was a terrifying experience."

Principal photography on *Lost* is scheduled for February, with the production pre-sold to Superchannel and a number of Canadian independent broadcasters, among them CHCH-TV Hamilton, CKVU Vancouver, and CFAC Calgary. Executive producers are Rowe and Barry Pearson, producer John Delmage.

## Odeon gets new president

Following the retirement of Christopher Salmon as president of Canadian Odeon Theatres Ltd., Robert Zahorchak has been named president, effective Dec. 1, Odeon chairman of the Board Mary A. Zahorchak announced Nov. 24.

Zahorchak has spent 25 years in the company founded in 1946 by his father, the late Michael Zahorchak, and has been executive vice-president and general manager since 1981.

David Allen continues as executive vice-president; Ronald Emilio becomes vice-president, films and advertising; Barney Regan becomes



vice-president, operations; and James Moore becomes general manager for Western Canada.

With 165 theatres and over 300 scenes across Canada, Odeon is Canada's largest Canadian-owned chain.

## 'Siege' besieged by awards



*Siege*, Canadian director Paul Donovan's action/thriller, continues to score enthusiastic notice, and recently won both the Critics Choice Award, and the Best Screenplay and Fantasy Films. This continues the momentum *Siege* began to gather earlier this year when it

won the second place award for Best Picture at the Cognac Festival, also in France.

*Siege* was entirely financed and produced in Halifax, Nova Scotia by Michael Donovan, Paul Donovan, Maura O'Connell and John Walsh, for executive producer, P. M. Robinson. The fast-paced thriller concerns a city in crisis where the police are out on strike, and a vigilance force, the New Order, move in to create their own set of laws. Distributor Manson International has placed the film with sub-distributors throughout the entire world, and is now seeking to place the film domestically.

## Héroux Academy Chairman



● Héroux on location  
Quebec producer Denis Héroux will become the new chairman of the Academy of Canadian Cinema, the academy announced Nov. 28.

Héroux, a former history professor, began his filmmaking career with highly successful Quebec soft-core movies like

*Valérie* before moving on to international coproductions including *Violette Nozière*, *Atlantic City* and *Quest for Fire*.

Héroux becomes the academy's third chairman, taking over from Toronto music score composer Paul Hoffert. The academy was formed five years ago to honor Canadian cinematic achievements.

Héroux, who with partner John Kemeny heads International Cinema Corporation, is the second Québécois to head the academy. Lawyer and movie producer Ron Cohen steered the academy in its first two years.

The 1984 Genie Awards, the Canadian film industry's equivalent of Hollywood's Oscars or France's Césars, will take place on March 21 at Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre.