

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

In December, CFCN Television in Calgary opened what it describes as the largest soundstage in western Canada. Upgraded from the aircraft hangar used as a makeshift studio for *Double Play* (nee *Blood Relations*) the 20,000 sq. ft. facility includes a 10,000 sq. ft. soundstage. Major additions are lighting grids and soundproofing. As well, office space, security, and set and prop storage areas are available. CFCN will also supply complete 16mm film and mobile videotape equipment on request, as well as crews. The man in charge is production manager Bryan Ellis.

Gilroy (Kicking Horse) is Edmonton vice-president; Michael Hamm (Frame 30), Dale Hardy and Glenn Ludlow are directors. Dick Steiner of Audio Visual Services is the corporate affiliate director. The Calgary vice-president position remained open.

AMPIA, already depleted in membership numbers, particularly in the Calgary area, reflects the economic woes apparent in other parts of the country as well. The organization, despite admirable efforts at more equal north-south representation in the last years, appears to have returned to being, for the moment, primarily Edmonton-based.

Although there are rumblings of the formation of a separate Calgary film organization, outgoing Calgary AMPIA vice-president Nancy Peterson sees this possibility, "not as a backlash against AMPIA," but more as a reflection of the economy.

The Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association elected a new executive at its general meeting held in December. Nick Bakyta (Tinsel Media) returns as president; Grace

"People can't afford to join," she comments.

Nick Bakyta in Edmonton says, "We're seeing a surfacing of frustration across Canada. When times are tough, people are under the most pressure in terms of survival. Divisiveness is a reflection of industry pressures."

The new executive has already outlined several objectives for the next year, including continuing dialogue and discussion with the industry, and elevating the profile of the AMPIA Awards.

Commenting on the lack of Alberta applications to the CFDC Broadcast Fund, Bakyta blames "a young, inexperienced producer base."

"It's up to us to sell ourselves," he says. "We can't wait for it to happen. Living in the regions is our problem and we have to solve it. We can't wait for government regulations. We have to establish our own industry."

In the works for Tinsel Media is a June shoot of a docudrama, *River of Bones*.

Bette Chadwick of The Other Agency Casting Limited in Edmonton has scored a coup in terms of international exposure. Thanks to her work on *Running Brave*, she has been assigned the Canadian search for native actors for *Roanoak*, a PBS mini-series on the lost colony of Roanoak Island.

Chadwick has been flying across Canada, from Vancouver to Saskatchewan to Manitoba to Sudbury, in search of 19 principal and supporting native actors. Judy Courtney will conduct the U.S. search.

The epic drama will shoot in the States in February-March for New York-based First Contact Films and director David Jones.

Hancox, Soul win in Frisco Fest

SAN FRANCISCO - Canadian filmmakers Rick Hancox and Veronika Soul won first and second prizes, respectively, at the 8th Poetry-Film Festival Dec. 3-4 in San Francisco.

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