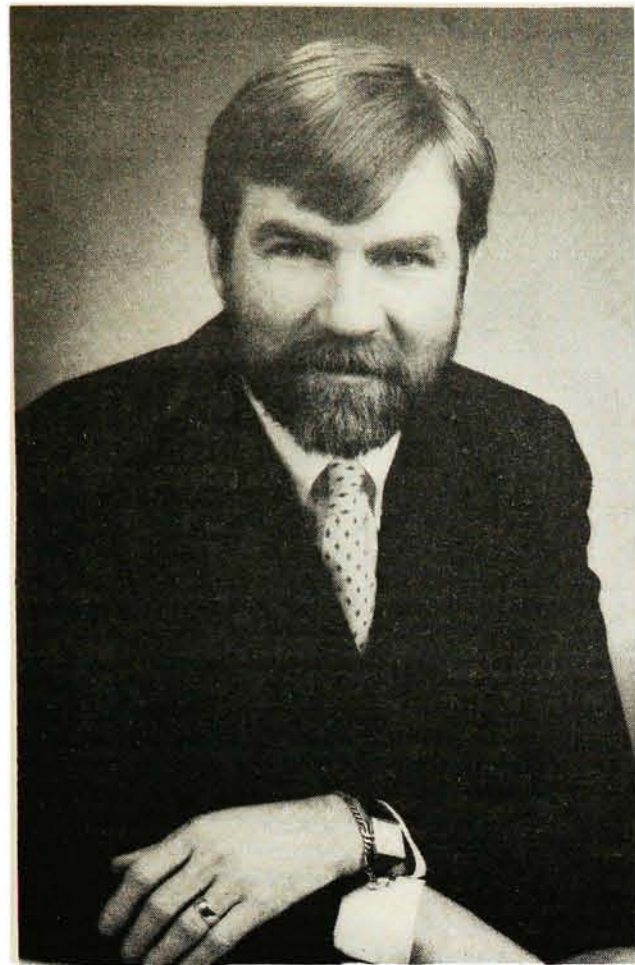


Brian Anthony named CCA national director

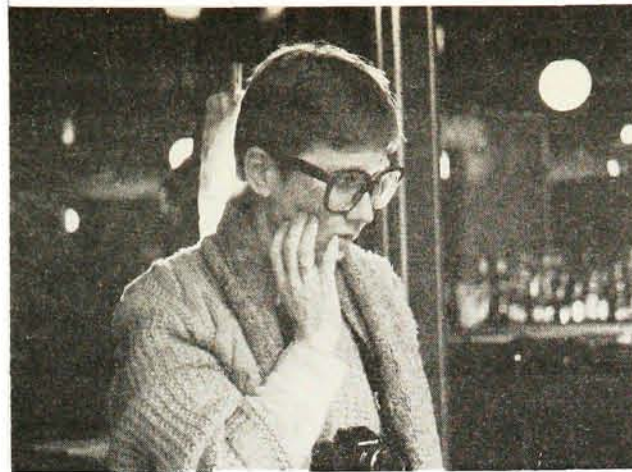


Micheline Tessier, president of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, announced Feb. 1 that the Board of Governors had confirmed the appointment of Brian Anthony as the CCA's national director.

In recent months, Brian Anthony had been acting national director, having joined the CCA, Canada's principal arts lobby, in 1980 as director of information. Previously, Anthony held two positions in the Arts and Culture Branch — formerly of the department of the Secretary of State, and now of the department of Communications — first

as executive assistant to the assistant deputy minister (Arts and Culture), and as a policy officer in the performing and visual arts fields. Anthony has also worked as a press officer at the National Arts Centre and, subsequently, as secretary of the corporation.

The Canadian Conference of the Arts is currently working on a major cultural policy document to be published and discussed at the CCA annual meeting and conference in Ottawa May 2-4. The CCA has approximately 700 organizational members.



● Experimental filmmaker Veronika Soul

Independents Soul and Hancox top San Francisco poetry film fest

Montreal independent filmmakers Veronika Soul and Toronto's Rick Hancox walked away with the two top prizes at San Francisco's recent 8th Poetry Film Festival.

Hancox's six-minute *Waterworx (A Clear Day and No Memories)*, based on a Wallace Stevens poem, won first prize, and Soul's *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, a surrealist 12-minute collage of excerpts from the letters of Sigmund Freud took second prize.

"Both are excellent films," said Festival director Herman Berlandt, "but we had to settle on one or the other, and *Waterworx* was the one."

The prize came as something of a surprise to Soul, currently working on the *bar mitzvah* film for the musical version of Mordecai Richler's *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. *Vienna Woods* (1974) is Soul's second film — she has made 16 — and she didn't know it had won.

"It's always wonderful to get a prize," the 39-year-

old filmmaker told Cinema Canada, "especially when I haven't produced a film on my own in maybe three years. The nice thing about the Poetry Festival is that it allows films to be screened without limitations on production dates."

Hancox, who teaches at Sheridan College, has authored a half-dozen poetry films in 15 years of experimental filmmaking. For *Waterworx*'s text he used a VAX 11/780 computer, filming directly off the screen. "The idea of using the artificial memory of a computer to generate poetry about the absence of memory," he says, "is consistent with the kind of complex imagery central to Wallace Stevens's poem."

Hancox's most recent film *Beach Events*, along with *Waterworx*, *Landfall* and two earlier films, will be screened at Toronto's The Funnel, Friday, Feb. 24.

"Many of our best entries in recent years have come from Canada," noted Fest director Berlandt, adding that he hoped the trend continues.

Bubbly atop CN Tower as First Choice's Fred Klinkhammer meets the media

The media had its initial encounter with incoming First Choice president and chief executive officer Fred Klinkhammer on Feb. 1, the first anniversary of the launch of Canadian pay-TV.

Klinkhammer joined First Choice executive committee chairman Harold Greenberg to announce the service's March and April lineup of ESPN programming — U.S.F.L. Monday Night Football, Top Rank Boxing, and magazine shows *Business Times* and *Sports Centre*. (The U.S.F.L. Canadian rights were obtained from Carling O'Keefe Ltd., which last year licensed them to Ontario's Global TV.)

Klinkhammer said First Choice's year had been successful when compared to the first years of other pay-TV services such as Home Box Office, but admitted the company's greatest problem is establishing co-operation with the cable companies in marketing pay-TV.

Though most of his time until Mar. 1, when he officially joins First Choice, will be spent wrapping up as head of Cablenet Ltd., Klinkhammer said he had already met with senior cable executives to sound them out on a price change.

Within 60 days of taking charge, Klinkhammer wants to meet with cable operators and the CRTC to discuss "a rationalization of the pay-TV price structure." First Choice probably will ask the CRTC to lower its Canadian content spending requirements, so that a lower price could be offered



consumers which in turn, would increase subscriber totals (currently at 325,000 for the English service.)

To improve pay-TV programming quality, given there are only a limited number of top calibre Hollywood films available at any time, Klinkhammer said more made-for-pay features should be co-produced by U.S. and Canadian partners. But First Choice's spending freeze on Canadian productions remains, and the best Klinkhammer could say was that he hoped the company would be back to licensing productions "soon"

After the press conference, Klinkhammer joined First Choice employees, cable executives, celebrities and media for a First Choice champagne birthday bash atop the CN Tower, televised live and sponsored by the Greater Toronto Cable Television Association.

Vancouver kid off to see the wizard

Nine-year-old Vancouver schoolgirl Fairuza Balk, an American-born Canadian immigrant, has beaten out hundreds of applicants to play Dorothy in Walt Disney's *Wizard of Oz* sequel *Oz*, which begins shooting Feb. 20 in London, England.

The 4'6", 60 lbs. Balk, youngest of all applicants, emerged from a talent search to find a new Dorothy which began in August. Judy Garland played the Kansas farm girl in the 1939 film classic.

Oz will be directed by Walter Murch, who co-wrote the screenplay with Gill Dennis.



Jocelyne Pelchat-Johnson helms Premier Choix: TVEC

With her recent nomination as interim president and director general of the new national French-language pay-TV licensee Premier Choix: TVEC, Jocelyne Pelchat-Johnson joins the select circle of increasingly prominent women in the Quebec production community.

Vice-president of Astral Film Enterprises since October 1982, Pelchat-Johnson will also represent Astral/First Choice/Premier Choix on Premier Choix: TVEC's interim management committee.

A lawyer, Pelchat-Johnson is a graduate of the University of Montreal, the University of London and



the London Institute of World Affairs. Pelchat-Johnson's

involvement with cinema goes back to 1963 when she was technical director for the Montreal International Film Festival. Since then she has been an information officer at the National Film Board, head of international marketing at the Board, and subsequently director of distribution and marketing at the Canadian Film Development Corporation until her move to Astral.

Quebec viewers may recall her extremely dignified TV appearance during her husband's (Liberal MP Daniel Johnson) unsuccessful Quebec Liberal Party leadership bid.