

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

A sell-out crowd of over 300 at the 11th Annual Alberta Film and Television Awards Feb. 16 in Edmonton surprised itself with its downhome dazzle and optimism, with filmmakers collaring each other and whispering in happy surprise, "Who are all these people? I didn't know there were that many of us!"

After a year of hardship, the patient may moan and groan in private, but sure knows how to put on a cheerful, healthy face in public. Despite a season of teetering uncertainly from month to month, the Alberta industry seems to have landed on its feet, keeping its balance with sponsored, industrial, educational and some (not enough) location shooting. (Another incredulous whisper: "85 entries? Were we that busy last year?")

There were no features entered in this year's competition. *Isaac Littlefeathers* did not qualify as an Alberta production under the current point system because its producers were non-Albertan. *Snowballs* never did make it to the bottom of the hill. *Birds of Prey* was still in post-production. And *Nattie Gann* was a Disney effort on location.

That aside, the bread-and-butter part of the industry put on its glad rags and travelled from all parts of the province to party at the Terrace Inn's parking courtyard, amid cameras poised for a provincial broadcast on the CBC.

Hosts Fred Keating (the quintessence of effervescence) and Vicki Gaboreau guided the crowd through a snappily paced (but, alas, barely audible) awards presentation, which saw *Change of Heart*, an NFB/CBC co-production snag more honors than any other entry.

Change of Heart, produced by Anne Frank of CBC (For the Record) in Toronto, and Tom Radford of the NFB Northwest Studio, was shot in Vermilion in October '83.

"I would like to thank John Kennedy (head, CBC TV Drama) for the faith he had in this from the beginning," said executive producer Radford as he accepted the award for Best Production of the Festival. Anne Wheeler won the Best Direction award for the same program, and Sharon Riis (*Latitude 55*) won Best Script - Dramatic. *Change of Heart* was also named Best Dramatic Production Under 60 Minutes.

The Special Jury Award was given to *Turn It Off*, a stylish music video performed by Ross Campbell and produced by Allan Stein for Tri-Tone Music. The zippy clip shown turned the crowd on, and judging from the wild reaction, *Turn It Off* may take off.

Editor Chris Tate (*Bridge to*

Terabithia) and Shirley Inget rallied the Edmonton film crowd to volunteer cater an after-hours party, adding more than a touch of class to the event. (In fact, talented Tate classes up any event in Alberta.)

Grand Patrons for the 11th Annual Alberta Film and Television Awards were the Banff Television Foundation, Telefilm Canada, Allarcom and Kodak Canada Inc. Jury Chairman David Scorgie headed a jury of Jim Burt (supervisor of script development, TV Drama, CBC, Toronto), Les Wedman (film critic, Vancouver) and Robert Rouveroy (president of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers, Toronto).

Winners

Best Documentary
To the Ends of the Earth
Image Works Alta. Inc.; Les Stahlke, producer

Best Wildlife
Landscapes: The Badlands and River Valleys
ACCESS Network; David Flux, producer

Best Dramatic Production Under 60 Minutes
Change of Heart
National Film Board; Tom Radford, executive producer

Best News and Public Affairs
New Party - The Edmonton File
CBC Edmonton; Cam Morton, producer

Best Motivational
Powers and Becoming (Parts 1, 2, 3)
Edwards/Hunter and ITV; Missy Geffen, producer

Best Musical/Variety
Tales from the 'O' Zone
CFCN Television; Brian Vos, producer

Best Educational
A Matter of Soils
Alberta Agriculture; Tom Dodd, producer

Best Promotional
Fentanyl - In Anaesthetic Practice
Communications Media Department, University of Calgary; Corinne Linder, producer

Best Short Under 10 Minutes
Kangeiko
C.S.T.R. Productions; Walter Shepherd and Mark Stewart, producers

Best Commercial
Glenn Miller - Big Band Series
ITV Productions; Jim Smith, producer

Craft Categories
Best Direction
Anne Wheeler for *Change of Heart*

Best Cinematography
Doug Cole for *Children of Alcohol*

Best Editing
Wayne Anderson for *Powers and Becoming* (1, 2, 3)

Best Script (Dramatic)
Sharon Riis for *Change of Heart*

Best Script (Non-Dramatic)
Ken Low for *Powers and Becoming* (1, 2, 3)

Best Musical Score
Gord McCrostie for *Powers and Becoming* (1, 2, 3)

Best Sound Recording
Graham Zapf for *Youth and Music*

Best Acting by Male or Female
Graham McPherson for *Komagata Maru Incident*

Best Host/Narrator Performance
Judith Mabey for *Aspects of Ecology - Micro-organisms*

Special Jury Award
For a music video:
Turn It Off
Tri-Tone Music Productions Ltd.; Allan Stein, producer

Best Production of the Festival

Change of Heart
National Film Board; Tom Radford, executive producer

Postscripts: The Banff Television Festival is slated for June 2-8, with guests including Jeremy Isaacs (Britain); Roger Laughton (BBC) and representatives from *Sesame Street*. Seminars include an examination of public television in the wake of the conservative wave; "Wendy Wacko Goes to Market: Can She Make It Internationally?" and an acting workshop and panel session. Awards Night will move to Friday, June 7... Dale Hardy of Vicom Limited is the Edmonton Vice-President of AMPIA... Rick Benwick is the newly elected president of the Motion Picture Society of Calgary... Northern Alberta ACTRA is one of the spearheads of a provincial arts lobby March 12 to protest government cuts in the arts. Southern Alberta is organizing as well in Calgary... "And What Are You Going to Do For Us?", a book of audition speeches from Cana-

dian plays by Albertans Margaret Bard, Miriam Newhouse and Peter Messaline, is now in its second edition...

Hungarian at rep

MONTREAL - *Gueuse de vie* (*Bloody Life*, a Hungarian feature which netted its star Shirley MacLaine lookalike Dorottya Udvaros the prize for best actress at last year's World Film Festival, opens at Montreal rep houses the Outremont Mar. 29-Apr. 4, and L'Autre Cinema Apr. 5-25.

The 213-min. film, written and directed by Peter Bacso (*Le Témoin, Avant-hier*) satirizes the cultural pretensions of the newly established Hungarian Communist regime of the early '50s. Deported from Budapest because of her brief marriage to an ex-count, actress Lucy Sziraky (Udvaros) joins a group of former landowners and capitalists now forced to work the lands they once owned. From this unlikely setting, Lucy plots her triumphant return to the stage.

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to Film, Television, and Communication Studies in Canada

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