

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

Despite changes in weather and switches in staff, two major features are shooting on location in Alberta, both under the Taliafilm II banner. September snows in Calgary stalled the shooting of the big BMX racing scene in Bowness for *Rad*, but the return of the sun rescued director Hal Needham and crew from despair. *Hyper Sapien*, the science-fiction adventure which began filming three weeks after *Rad*, was suddenly helmed by a new director a week into production. Michael Wadleigh (*Wolfen*, *Woodstock*) who also scripted, was replaced by Peter Hunt (*Death Hunt*). Also, veteran production manager Grace Gilroy departed *Hyper Sapien*, to be replaced by Eda Lishman.

was broadcast live Sept. 14 on the CBC Network, as part of Canada Week programming.

The 2800-seat, three-theatre facility will house Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as J.V. Theatre Productions, a shared production service organization jointly owned by Theatre Calgary and Alberta Theatre Projects.

The Jack Singer Concert Hall, an 1800-seat sound chamber with an adjustable 125,000 lb. laminated wood canopy suspended over the stage as an acoustic sound reflector, was designed by Artec Consultants Inc. The theatre is named after Calgarian Jack Singer, the mogul

best-known in film circles for his investment in *One From the Heart* and Hollywood Centre Studios in Los Angeles.

The 750-seat Max Bell Theatre is a proscenium arch theatre, and the Martha Cohen Theatre (named for the volunteer who made it all happen) is a 450-seat facility in the Georgian tradition, with tiered boxes of seats.

Funding formula for the Centre consisted of \$15 million from the private sector (despite the recession), \$46.3 million in grants from the Government of Alberta, \$12.6 million from the City of Calgary, and \$5.9 million in interest on the funding.

The West Edmonton Mall, in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest shopping centre in the world, celebrated the opening of

Phase III of its \$1.5 billion development with a \$1 million bash Sept. 10.

First, a mere 10,000 VIP's in formal and semi-formal duds gathered for the champagne (and gourmet food) reception. Then the doors opened to allow crowds estimated at 75,000 to 100,000 to cram the massive mall.

Already in the eye of location scouts, West Edmonton Mall will probably be a major location in January for *Running Man*, a futuristic feature to star Christopher Reeve, as well as being considered as the site for *Golden Skates*, a television special to star Danny Kaye. (One of the attractions of the mall, in addition to the indoor lake with submarines and Deep Sea Adventure with Spanish galleon and performing dolphins, is the regulation-size hockey rink.)

As well, future plans for the mall, which include a water

park with surf waves and constant indoor sun, and extravagant Fantasyland Hotel, will probably continue to attract interest from the film world.

Amin Bhatia, supertalented synthesizer artist/composer, was recently invited to Los Angeles by Grammy-award-winning group Toto, after his repeated sweeps of first prize in the Roland Synthesizer contest brought him and his music to their attention. Bhatia is also a radio producer at CKXL in Calgary (placing as finalist in the Cleo Awards for his work) and has won a range of awards for his compositions for film...*Matters of Choice*, episode 2 (aired Oct. 3) of the CBC regional series *The Way We Are*, was shot in Beaumont, near Edmonton, by producer Dave Cook and director Jack Emack.

Meanwhile, CFAC Television has finally forged into drama production with *There's Always Next Year*, a half-hour taped Sept. 7-13 in their studios in north-east Calgary. Actor/director Frank Adamson (Sgt. Brown in *Seeing Things* and director of CKND's *Reunion*) of Winnipeg and Toronto helmed the cast of Kate Lynch, Maureen Thomas, Stan Coles and Ondine Hayes in the adaptation (by Clem Martini) of the short story, *Hockey Night in Canada*.

"CFAC saw a show I directed *Reunion* which had won a few awards. They liked the direction and contacted CKND to find me," says Adamson.

Adamson and his company, Nosmada Productions, acted as producers of the script about a complex romantic triangle. Meanwhile, multi-talented Adamson, whose first love is acting with directing an offshot of that, praises the facilities of Studio A at CFAC.

The gala opening of the \$80 million Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts, an elegant and long-awaited complex,

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Toronto Film Now

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 and, with Korican, the co-organizer) by L.I.F.T., the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto. Offering a theatrical screen for 16 and 35 mm optical sound films, each program will provide time after the screenings for film community members and audiences to interview the producers about their films and Toronto's filmmaking scene in general.