

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

"Let the good times roll!" is the operative phrase at the Kicking Horse production offices in Edmonton, where producer Michael Lebowitz and co-producer Arvi Liimatainen are moving into **Good Times at the Rainbow Bar and Grill**, a half-hour television pilot about a successful rock'n'roller who owns a small-town bar. Set in the mythical town of Rainbow Springs, the situation comedy with music will shoot at the Bruin Inn in Edmonton, and in the suburb of St. Albert, with an April 14 start date for five days of main unit and one day of second unit.

The \$380,000 budget was pulled from a combo of Allacom, Telefilm, CBC and Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation (AMPDC) funding. Tim Bond directs Don Francks, Lisa Langlois, Susan Sneath, and a cast assembled by Stuart Aikins of Canadian Casting and Bette Chadwick of the Other Agency Casting Limited.

The "story with music in its soul" was written by Phil Savath, with Rene Ohashi serving as DOP, Doug Forbes as editor, super efficient Doug MacLeod as production manager, talented John Blackie as art director and Jill Lakeman on wardrobe.

Co-producer Liimatainen reports that 26 of the 33 cast and crew positions are taken by Albertans. The original music is by Freddie Mollin.

Mark your calendar for the seventh Banff Television Festival, May 25 to 31 at the Banff Park Lodge. A spectacular location, quality competition, energetic conferences, a network of business contacts and never-ending social events should combine, under the keen eye of marketing and media relations director Barbara A. Moes, to create a memorable festival. Classing up the mountain scenery is new Festival manager Fred Diehl, the respected radio drama producer who was the 1985 recipient of ACTRA's John Drainie Award for Distinguished Contribution to Broadcasting.

Conference topics on public broadcasting, the technical revolution, media responsibilities, marketing and distribution, television graphics and animation, plus a series of seminars on writing television comedy will be embellished with the traditional social

events of the ever-popular western barbeque (May 28) and the Awards night (May 30).

The Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation, enhanced by the recent addition of super-competent vice-president Caryl Brandt, has distributed its 1984-85 report.... **Storm**, the low-budget thriller which took the Best Production of the Festival Award at the Alberta Film and Television Festival in March, is being promoted by Telefilm Canada in Los Angeles. Office director Lorraine Good reports that, after several screenings of the

feature, 25-year-old producer/director David Winning has attracted the interest of several studios, who are interested in seeing his next production (which will shoot in Calgary in August).... Editor Rick Benwick is back from a stint in Los Angeles, editing **Hyper Sapien**.... Edmonton actor Bill Meilen won the Andrew Allan Award for Best Acting Performance in Radio (Male) at the ACTRA Awards April 2.... Fred Keating, seen on First Choice/Superchannel's **Mailbag** and **Movie Week**, now has a new project generated by his corporation Lindisfarne Productions (which handled the **Mailbag** contract) with **Fred Keating's Movie Mailbox**, a letters column geared to introducing the Edmonton charmer to newspaper readers.

The first production by Penta One, the consortium formed by five western television stations for the purposes of independent drama production, will begin shooting June 2 in Calgary.

The five stations (CFCN in Calgary, CFRN in Edmonton, CKY in Winnipeg, CFQC in Saskatoon, and CKTV in Regina) created a \$2 million production pool in February 1985, and have now hired Bill Mackie (of Bill Mackie Productions in Vancouver) as controller of production.

Penta One's first project, **Hamilton's Quest**, the story of a boy in search of his parents, will shoot at CFCN's ATCO facility in Calgary, and with second unit in the five geographic areas of the western Canadian stations. The ten-part half-hour series is written by Sally and Tom Drake (**Then**

Came Bronson) of Vancouver. Line producer/production manager is Doug MacLeod.

Bill Stevenson, director of programming at CKTV (and part of the Penta One program committee) explains: "We decided that if we shared funding, we could come up with some quality independently produced drama in the regions." In addition, Penta One hopes to tap the talent in the regions, not using staff from their stations, but freelance actors and crew (contrary to the usual industry practice of parachuting in Toronto performers and key positions).

Stevenson says the series will play on local stations, with the possibility of a CTV network sale.

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