

American Empire sales great for Malo

MONTREAL – Denys Arcand's *Le Déclin de l'empire américain* continues to win awards and critical acclaim wherever the feature film is shown. Sales of the film by co-producer and distributor René Malo have been confirmed in 20 countries including the U.S. where, during the last week in July, Malo was reported to be signing the most lucrative U.S.-Canadian sales deal in the history of Canadian film.

Malo, who is co-producer with Roger Frappier (then at the NFB, which co-produced *Le Déclin*), could not be reached in Los Angeles at presstime. However, Pierre Latour, head of sales for Malo's Corporation Image M & M Ltée, said the price-tag on the U.S. distribution deal is in the area of \$500,000 (U.S.).

The film which will have its English-Canadian premiere in September opening the Toronto Festival of Festivals will be shown in theatres through-

out Quebec in mid-August. It won the international critics' award in May at the Cannes Film Festival.

Since then it has won the press critics prize at the Taormina Festival in Italy and at the Seté Festival in France. It has also been nominated for competition at the Festival Rio.

Box-office receipts after five weeks on two screens in Montreal totalled \$435,589.

Bethune project on go for Filmline in co-prod with French, Chinese

MONTREAL – Long a dream of Canadian film producers, the heroic exploits of Canadian doctor Norman Bethune during the Spanish Civil War and the Chinese Long March will be the subject of a \$20 million epic production finalized July 24 in Beijing, China by Montreal-based Filmline International, China Film Co-production Corp., August 1 Film Studio of China and Belstar Productions of France.

Bethune: The Making of a Hero, which will be shown as a two-hour theatrical feature and a four-hour television mini-series, is expected to star Canadian actor Donald Sutherland, from a script by Bethune's biographer, Ted Allen.

Pre-production on the project is slated to start Nov. 1, 1986 in Beijing with principal photography scheduled to begin Feb. 1 in China. Filming will continue in China for 16 weeks, move to Spain for 10 days and wind up with six weeks shooting in Montreal.

The project is an official Canada / France co-production between Filmline International and Belstar Productions of France, in association with Tele-film Canada, CBC and Société Radio-Canada.

The announcement was made in Beijing by Filmline principal Pieter Kroonenburg. Filmline, headed by Kroonenburg, Nicolas Clermont and David Patterson, recently produced *Toby McTeague*, soon to be released in the U.S. following its Canadian theatrical run.

SDA signed for \$4 M co-production

MONTREAL – SDA Productions Ltée has announced a \$4 million agreement to co-produce a feature-length fantasy film with French producer Jean-Pierre Rawson, president of Show Off.

Principal photography for *Le Testament du Dr. Moreau* will begin in Montreal in May 1987 and move to Paris for the interior studio work. Special effects will be completed in London and all of the post-production work done in Montreal prior to an expected 1988 premiere. The Canadian distributor will be Cinema Plus.

The agreement was signed in Montreal by Gaston Cousineau, producer and vice-president of SDA Productions Ltée. Financing of the co-production agreement is on a 25 per cent / 75 per cent basis for the Canadian and French producer respectively.

As a producer of some 20 features, Jean-Pierre Rawson has been involved in such films as *Les egouts du paradis* and *Gros Galin*.

Cousineau's most current project is the feature-length

The Morning Man, directed by Danièle J. Suissa and scheduled to be released this fall.

ROUYN-NORANDA – The fifth annual Festival du Cinéma International of Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Quebec), Nov. 1-6, 1986, has released the names of its staff organizers. They are Jacques Matte, Director; Guy Parent, responsible for programming and administration; Louise Dallaire, promotion and media relations; Madeleine Perron, co-ordinator; Suzanne Bourassa, secretary. The festival welcomes in competition all types of short, medium and full length features either in 16 or 35 mm. All films submitted must be received no later than Sept. 5, 1986.

VANCOUVER – Attendance at the Vancouver International Film Festival increased 37 per cent over last year's figures to 85,000 participants, according to film festival organizers. The festival closed on June 26 following a five-week presentation of international cinema. Initial attendance figures indicate a 24 per cent increase in box office revenues and a 12 per cent increase in Festival memberships.

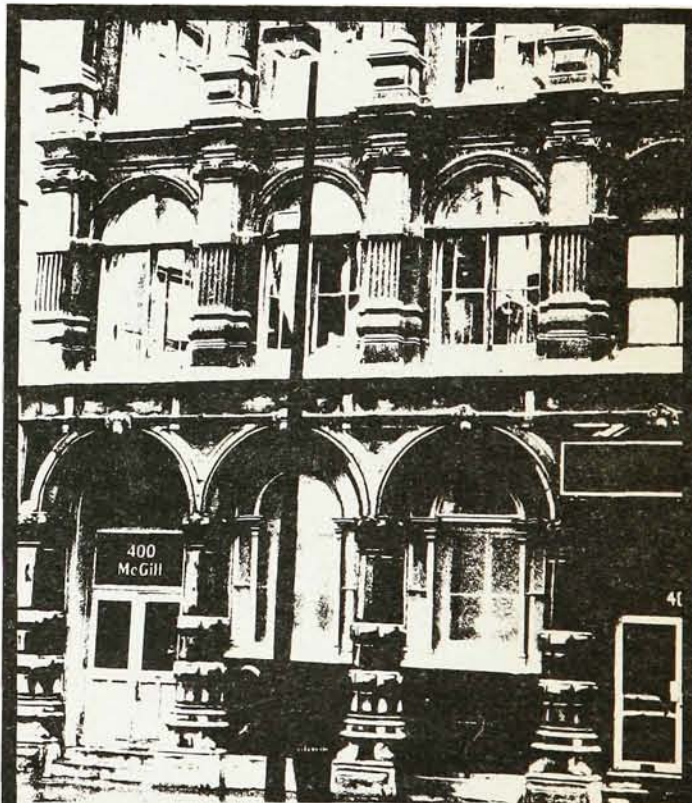
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