

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecck

Stingray, the NBC series shooting in Calgary, wrapped a gruelling 1 1/2 week schedule October 29. It goes back into production November 24 – but not in Calgary. The next six episodes are to be filmed in Vancouver. "It went very nicely here," said associate producer Brad Aronson. "I hope it goes as well there."

There aren't any other productions lined up in Calgary until next spring.

In Edmonton, 750 people turned up for a screening of Francis Damberger's short film **On The Edge**. The half-hour story about teenage suicide marks the writing/directing debut of Damberger, a local actor. The 29-year-old Alberta native's other short film was screened November 4. **Rat Tales**, starring John Vernon, was produced by Peter Campbell.

Both **Rat Tales** and **On The Edge** will air on CBC regionally. **Edge** won a special jury prize at last year's Alberta Motion Picture Industry Awards and was recently awarded a silver plaque at the Chicago International Film Festival. Damberger and production manager Lars Lehmann are taking it to the Yorkton, Saskatchewan festival.

Bo Ho (Golden Harvest) producers flew into Edmonton late October. They're planning to shoot parts of a kung fu adventure called **The Chinese Condor** this month. This is the third film Bo Ho has brought to Alberta since last winter.

Arvi Liimatainen will probably act as production supervisor. The three-week shoot will use locations in Edmonton, Lethbridge, and possibly Banff. Production was scheduled for November 20.

Liimatainen will also be busy with duties on **Stone Fox**, Allarcom's new project. The made-for-TV-movie started shooting November 4 out of Fort Edmonton Park, a local historic site. It is a reconstruction of two early "towns," – Edmonton before the turn of the century, and in the 1920s-'30s.

Emmy award-winner Walter Davies revised drafts of the script to take advantage of the location. The film is based on a children's book by John Reynolds Gardiner. It follows the trials of a young boy who competes in an adult dogsled race to save his grandfather's farm.

Flight Of The Navigator star Joey Kramer has been signed to play Willy, the farm boy. Harvey Hart, whose credits include episodes of **The**

Cosby Show and **East Of Eden** will direct.

Allarcom's producing the NBC movie-of-the-week in association with Taft Entertainment. Tony Allard, vice-president of creative development, says he's "looking forward" to the experience of working with Taft.

Stone Fox might satisfy the criteria for movies that Allard says he'd like to keep making – "entertaining, enduring, and economic." It will air March 1 on NBC and Allard has some

other distribution deals brewing.

The much-publicized association between Alliance Entertainment and Stein/MacLean Productions may bring some work to Edmonton this winter. Local producer Alan Stein, who just finished shooting an NFB docu-drama called **Shooting Stars**, is now developing a feature with Alliance. It's to be a teen-adventure pic, shot out of Western Canada's shrine to consumerism, West Edmonton Mall. The working title is, appropriately, **Going For Broke**.

Petra

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