

The definition of a "Canadian" film is also strongly criticized as it would permit a Canadian film to be made with neither the screenplay nor the director being Canadian

This issue of **Cinema Canada** contains the reactions of several organizations and individuals. See p. 18 (CCFM), p. 19 (SFM) and p. 19 (CAMPP). Wally Gentleman offers his opinion on p. 46 and Paul Saltzman talks about investments in short films on p. 32 .

Productions

This summer has seen a curious combination of occurrences and circumstances in feature film-making. On the one hand we have a tremendous influx of American and foreign major budget features; on the other hand we have last-minute 'postponement' of two Canadian features in the major budget class. Meanwhile down at the feet is where the Canadian activity is really taking place: the lowbudget CFDC program is moving along at a great pace.

If you're American, use the West, especially Alberta. Universal shot **Mustang Country** in Banff this summer, and it features the Return of Joel McRae. And Robert Altman is reportedly shooting **Buffalo Bill and the Indians**, an adaptation of Arthur Kopit's play, **Indians**, with Paul Newman in Calgary. Winnipeg is the site of **The Melting Pot**, with Romeo Jacobucci as executive producer, Deke Miles as producer, director and writer, and a cast consisting of Peter Jacob, Richard Fullerton, Kimberly Smith and Butch Jularbal.

Pierre David and his company are local production overseers for an Italian film shooting in Montreal called **Tony Saitta**. Director is Alberto de Martino, and

the cast includes Keir Dullea, Stuart Whitman and Tiffany Bolling.

At the same time producer Larry Dane has postponed production of **Rituals**, scheduled to be directed by Peter Carter this summer near Sault Ste. Marie. Story involves four doctors fighting for survival in the wilderness, with a script by Ian Sutherland. Reason given is casting problems. And Ratch Wallace has postponed **Summer Rain**, a love story set in an exclusive school - with a happy ending - until next spring. There was only a week left to go until shooting was to start. Cast includes Donald Pleasence, David Warner, Trudy Young and Patricia Gage. Director is William Davidson from a script by Wallace. No reason given. So no major budget English language films will be shot this summer, although some are planned for fall.

Meanwhile the low-budget programme seems to thrive, with several on the boards this year. Martyn Burke wrote and directed **The Clown Murders** for Magnum International, with Chris Dalton producing along with Steven Stohn. Cinematography was by Dennis Miller, production manager was John Eckert, editor is Alan Collins, and the cast includes Stephen Young, Susan Keller, Gary Reineke, John Candy, Larry Dane and Al Waxman... Dennis Zahoruk wrote and is now directing **Brethren** in Toronto. Chalmers Adams is Executive Producer, Bill Corcoran First A.D., D.M. Ostriker camera, and the cast includes Kenneth Welsh, Richard Fitzpatrick, Thomas Hauff, Sandra Scott, Candace O'Connor, Alison McLeod and Larry Reynolds. It's about three brothers who return for the funeral of the family patriarch and return to the same conflicts that caused their separation in the first place... And in Vancouver

we hear that a feature called **The Keeper** may be shooting, with Don Wilson producing and Tom Drake directing.

Joyce Weiland's **The Far Shore** finished shooting in late spring... Denis Héroux returned to Europe to reshoot some scenes for his multinational effort **Born for Hell**: a winter release is planned for Canada... Keg Productions has begun to shoot a film based on part of the Grey Owl saga, and it'll combine animals and humans, but only two of the latter.

Two films are supposedly ready for release, and even have distributors, but I think you'd need Eliza and her horoscope to find out for sure. International Film Distributors will handle Alexis Kanner's **Mahoney's Last Stand** in Canada, and British Lion has it in the U.K. A U.S. distrib is being sought, and Kanner says he has several million dollars backing for future projects. **Mahoney** was shot in Toronto, then re-shot and re-edited endlessly... **Lies My Father Told Me**, complete with

shiny new music tracks, is planned for fall release, and has been picked up for U.S. distribution by **Columbia**... As an aside from features, a short has been completed with an interesting angle. Filmmaker Eugene Buia made **I Am A Gypsy** with a never-before-seen-on-film baptism scene. And in spite of a gypsy law that forbids looking into a mirror or a camera.

Several films are definitely on for fall shooting, including some major features. Quadrant plans a follow-up to **It Seemed Like A Good Idea at the Time**, starring the clumsy cops from that pic played by Larry Dane and John Candy. Comedy will be directed by John Trent in September. Quadrant is also finishing **Spanish Fly** with Terry Thomas in England. Taking advantage of the success of **Sudden Fury** at Cannes, Quadrant announced a program of three low-budget productions, beginning with a comedy by Rex Bromfield and Peter O'Brien called **Love at First Sight**. O'Brien is developing two other properties for Quadrant...

Lies My Father Told Me





It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time

Alan Eastman's low-budget effort, **A Sweeter Song**, with a script by Eastman and actor Jim Henshaw, is set to roll in early September. Cast also includes Susan Petrie...

And none other than Don Owen will return to the feature camera. Owen has set aside **Rosedale Lady** and he and executive producer Chalmers Adams are arranging **The Partners**, with a script by Norman Snider and Owen, for fall shooting. Budget category is still to be determined... Harold Greenberg has several projects in the immediate works, including **Patman**, set in a Toronto mental institution and starring Richard Harris; **About Face**, a psychological action pic to be directed by Bob Clark and produced by Claude Héroux; and **The Last Free Man**, with Frank Capra Jr. as producer. Two co-efforts with the CBC, **The Lark in the Clear Air** and **Chinook**, are still on the definite drawing boards...

Other fires may catch. John Vidette and Charles Templeton have received an unprecedented advance from the CFDC to develop Templeton's bestseller; no script draft was requested... Both Frank Vitale and Bill Fruet are reportedly planning feature efforts... As is critic and former filmmaker John Hofsess. He's

written **Tenderness**, a story along the lines of Jutra's **A tout prendre**, and if it's a low-budget effort he'll direct; if a major budget, another will direct. Either way, Hofsess is determined to be in it. I wonder what Canadian motherhood, not to mention Premier Davis and Judy LaMarsh, would think of Maclean's if they knew that Canada's National Magazine had hired someone who had got busted for making a 'porno' film? At any rate, **Tenderness** will have style, no matter what budget.

... Film Funding, the folks who gave you **Black Christmas**, want to film the Herbert Harker best-seller **Goldenrod** as a major budget feature next spring in Alberta. They've joined with David Susskind's Talent Associates to do so, and have sold the picture's TV rights to CBS...

On the television front Harry Rasky is working on a special about Marc Chagall, George Bloomfield directed a version of Clifford Odette's **Paradise Lost** with Nehemiah Persoff, Fiona Reid has been cast as a regular lead on **The King of Kensington**, Peter Rowe is directing a **Peep Show** starring Gordon Pinsent about a man who faked an around-the-world solo sea voyage, and Clarke Mackey shot a **Peep Show** called **Fight Night** with

Jim Henshaw and Stephen Young in lead roles... The NFB, now out of fiction features, they say, still maintain their drama training program, I would guess with an eye to TV efforts. Meanwhile the French NFB recently saw a half-hour fiction effort shown on TV, Andre Theberge's **Un fait accompli**.

Stephen Chesley

Festivals

Summertime is Festival Time, as is Fall hereabouts, and the happenings are many all over this land, but mainly in Ontario. The Canadian Film Awards are on, and festivals are cropping up in Ottawa, Stratford, Niagara-on-the-lake, Montreal, and at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

Filmexpo was held Aug. 8-15 at Ottawa's National Arts Centre, opening with André Forcier's **Bar Salon** and including a programme of Canadian shorts and Murray Markowitz' **Recommendation for Mercy**. Both Forcier and Markowitz were in attendance. Also featured to a sell-out crowd through the week were Michel Brault's **Les ordres**, and such foreign entries as **Hester Street**, **The Rocky Horror Picture Show**, **A Safe Place**, **A Bigger Splash**, **Lancelot du Lac**, **Scenes from a Marriage**, **Land of Promise**, and **Italy - Year One**. Norman McLaren received the Canadian Film Institute Award given to "an individual who has made an outstanding and continuing contribution to Canadian Cinema". A retrospective was held, and he received a leather-bound copy of a forthcoming CFI book on his career...

The Fifth Annual Montreal International Festival of Cinema in 16 mm will be held October

21-26 at the Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec. Entry deadline for this non-commercial assembly is October 1 at 2026 Ontario Street East in Montreal. Films not previously shown in Canada are eligible, and the Festival is non-competitive.

Concordia University (Sir George Williams Campus), Montreal, will again host the Canadian Student Film Festival this September. The Festival is now in its seventh year. Last year, two participants saw their films entered in the competition at the Cannes Film Festival...

Stratford's Eleventh Film Festival opens on September 13 (see in this issue, p. 26)...

The Canadian Film and Television Awards, sponsored by the Canadian Film and Television Association, are accepting entries for their annual convention cum awards in Edmonton on September 25. Films made by the private sector, over three minutes long, satisfying CRTC Canadian content regulations, and produced between July 1, 1974 and June 30, 1975 are eligible. Best Film categories are Public Relations, Sales Promotion, Travel and Recreation, Nature and Wildlife, Sports, Education and Instruction, Television Information and Public Affairs, Sponsored Theatrical Shorts. Craft Awards will be given to best director, soundman, cinematographer, editor, composer...

Spectrum Canada is a show of all the arts sponsored by the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts with plans to exhibit at the Olympics and tour the country. An all-Canadian jury will choose works and form an open exhibition. Films should be sent to Colin Low at the National Films Board, Montreal...