

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Stacey Bertles

March rolled into Alberta like a lamb, and Edmonton's Third World Film Festival rolled along with it. Three days of productions by or about Third World countries began February 27. Presentations ranged from a screening of Werner Herzog's 1985 feature **Where The Green Ants Dream** to the Edmonton premiere of **Broken Rainbow**, an Oscar-winning documentary about the resettlement of the Hopi Indians. National Film Board (NFB) filmmaker Laurette Deschamps lectured on **No Longer Silent**, her new film about women in India.

Moving from world issues to our own backyard, Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association's (AMPIA) annual awards event kicked off March 20 with a seminar on music in film. To round things out, AMPIA also organized a meeting of the Western Motion Picture Industry Association and an animation workshop hosted by the Edmonton-based co-operative North West Media Network and FAVA. Public screening of AMPIA award-winners were held at the local NFB office March 22.

The National Screen Institute (NSI), which evolved out of the NFB and some other organizations last year, has sent out applications for its first batch of DramaLab students. NSI's board includes industry names like Anne Wheeler, Rock Demers, Peter O'Brian and Janice Platt, all of whom have been slated as instructors in the program.

DramaLab is designed for industry 'professionals' who want to develop their skills as directors, writers, and producers. It's basically a workshop/production program built around three phases. The first begins this fall in Edmonton. The second and third are planned for Montreal in the Spring and the Fall of '88 respectively.

In the meantime, seminar-prone directors can take advantage of the director's workshop at the Banff Festival. It runs for five days during the festival (June 7-13) and will be hosted by a panel of Canadian directors. Norman Campbell, Denys Arcand, Alan Ehrlich, Rob Quarteny, and Donald Brittain will share their expertise.

The festival will also feature a writing seminar sponsored by the International Writer's Guild; seminars on the effect of satellite technology with presentations by Moses Znaimer (CITY TV, MuchMusic) and Jeremy Isaacs (Channel 4); and a discussion of the relationship

between television and the feature film industry.

All this education may finally pay off. A few local producers are finding rewards in markets and awards. Peter Campbell sold **Rat Tales**, a half-hour drama which aired regionally on CBC, to Global. Jack Emack, who produced and directed the CBC drama **Letting Go**, won a Gate - San Francisco International Film Festival Golden Gate Award - in the local station entertainment category. Allarcom's holding its breath that the ratings for the March 29 airing of **Stone Fox** will warrant more production business from NBC. In the meantime, crews kept busy working on an underground feature for Don Archbold.

Archbold pioneered the rock video show format with **Rock 'n Roll Videos**, a series which ran on CBC four years ago. He turned his hand to feature writing and came up with a comedy about a down-and-out musician caught up in a nightclub scam. Claiming he avoided the usual funding route of applying at Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation (AMPDC) and Telefilm because he didn't like the idea of "getting advice from someone with an abysmal record of failure," he went directly to local actors and crew members for support.

The script must be pretty funny, because Archbold used it to convince an entire cast and crew to work on deferment. Shooting took two and a half-weeks and wrapped March 4. Archbold called it a "non-preentious little movie" and said he's sure he'll be paying everyone back. "If people get a chance to see it, I know it'll do very well."

It's called **Just My Luck**.

CBC to carry AIDS info ads

OTTAWA - In view of the seriousness of AIDS, the CBC has made an exception to its policy of not carrying controversial advertising.

The CBC board of directors decided recently that the corporation would accept messages on a paid or unpaid basis from public health organizations to inform and educate the public about the dangers and control of AIDS.

In accepting these messages the CBC has emphasized the need for factual balance, good taste and respect for audience sensitivities and ethical concerns.

To maintain factual balance the CBC will ensure that any message that promotes the use of condoms as a means of preventing the transmission of AIDS will not condone casual or illicit sex.

Service house needs TF helps with hi-tech

MONTREAL - In need of a financial infusion, Film Docteur du Quebec Inc., specialists in film animation and optical special effects, is closing its doors to student filmmakers.

Jim Paquette, president of the Film Docteur on St. Laurent Blvd., says the exodus of lab work to Toronto and the volume of work handled by the National Film Board and Radio-Canada has resulted in a break-even situation for the lab, established in 1981.

In 1985, the Film Docteur reported a clear profit of \$1,800 on sales of \$275,000. Paquette says that over half of potential lab revenues is taken by government funded institutions with financial participation in co-productions.

As well, Paquette estimates that close to \$1 million annually leaves Montreal for the faster and more efficient Toronto labs.

In order to compete for dollars migrating to Toronto and with government labs, Paquette approached Telefilm Canada, early last summer, for a \$260,000 grant towards purchasing and updating equipment.

"I could go to the federal development bank for that money tomorrow," says Paquette, "but I am not going to borrow from the government to compete with the government."

"All I'm saying (to Telefilm) is that if you are giving money to producers as a direct grant, why not give me a cut and allow me to reduce the rate I charge the producer."

No longer, says Paquette, can he take time to train film production students from Concordia University.

André Herman, head of film production at Concordia, says that his students used the Film Docteur facilities "extensively."

He says he is "dismayed" by the closing of the facilities to his students and that he will support Paquette in his bid for Telefilm funding.

"Jim Paquette has been very helpful. It is kind of a burden having a student around but for the last two semesters he has had at least one student there constantly," Herman told *Cinema Canada*.


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