

Le Déclin leads in banner year for Canadian Academy

TORONTO — The predictable happened at the 1987 Genie awards. Director Denys Arcand's **The Decline of the American Empire** captured the most awards including the top prize for best movie.

The unpredictable also happened. Quebec director Arcand thanked Toronto film critics for helping make the film a success.

Decline took eight Genie awards including best original screenplay, best director, best supporting actor (Gabriel Arcand), best supporting actress (Louise Portal), best film editing, best sound and best sound editing.

Director Leon Marr's **Dancing in the Dark** was next in line with three Genie awards including best lead actress for Martha Henry's portrayal of a woman who strives to be the perfect housewife.

Dancing in the Dark also won best adapted screenplay and best art direction.

Gordon Pinsent captured best actor for his role as a miner forced to leave his life-long Newfoundland home in **John and the Missus**. The film also took best music score.

Léa Pool's feature **Anne Trister** also won two Genies. One for best cinematography and the other for best original song. **Loyalties**, set in Alberta and directed by Anne Wheeler, won best costume design.

Among those movies locked out of a Genie award was Yves Simoneau's thriller **Pouvoir intime**.

Decline producer René Malo later explained the importance Toronto critics played in building support for the movie, which is nominated for best foreign language film at the Oscars, March 30.

Toronto critics were really the ones spreading the news to all the others, Malo said.

"They really helped us to promote the film in Cannes," Malo told reporters. "After that, when we came back here, Toronto was the first place where the picture was seen by people that were not French speaking. The reception was so good it really helped us all around the world."

Decline also won the 1986 Golden Reel Award for its success at the box office. Malo said 1.2 million people have seen it in Canada. It captured \$3.3 million at the Canadian box office last year setting a Quebec record for a Canadian film with more than \$2.7 million in that province alone.

"Since the beginning I really believed that it would be a very, very popular film," Malo said.

He feels that the Canadian film as a whole has become stronger and the competition in the Genies was very good. "It proves, I think, that we really now have an industry in this country."

Arcand compared the Genie awards with the Oscars.

"Do you know anything

about tennis?" Arcand asked reporters.

"The guy who wins the Canadian championship is a pretty good tennis player." But the U.S. Open is an international competition, he added.

"Here it is only Canadian films. There it is films from other countries," Arcand said.

He added that in his years in the film industry he had never received an award for directing. "It's a first for me. It's really nice."

He drew laughs from the press entourage at the show when photographers asked him to hold one of his Genie awards higher and he asked

"What is the matter with your framing?"

Gordon Pinsent quietly expressed surprise at the sheer number of photographers and press waiting to interview him after his award.

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ration, pride and awareness in the making of Canadian films.

Pinsent spoke glowingly of the group that put **John and the Missus** together.

"They were on it because they wanted to be on it. It

wasn't a job of work. It wasn't the paycheck or anything and it was good to have that kind of atmosphere. You fight to have that - for people to believe in your thing so much that they would rather be there than anywhere."

Ronald Cohen, chairman of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, spoke

out in favour of support given the film industry by Canadian politicians.

He praised federal communications minister Flora MacDonald for her support of the industry. He declared "that Canadian culture is not negotiable" in a reference to the free trade talks with the United States.

Roger Frappier, who produced **Decline** with Malo, asked, "Who would have guessed that the **Decline of the American Empire** would mean the rise of the Canadian cinema?"

The Genie winners were voted by the 800 film division members of the Academy.

Here is the complete list of Genie winners:

- best motion picture - **Decline of the American Empire** - producers Rene Malo and Roger Frappier;
- best performance by an actor in a leading role - Gordon Pinsent in **John and the Missus**;
- best performance by an actress in a leading role - Martha Henry in **Dancing in the Dark**;
- best performance by an actor in a supporting role - Gabriel Arcand in **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best performance by an actress in a supporting role - Louise Portal in **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best achievement in art direction - Lillian Sarafinchan for **Dancing in the Dark**;
- best achievement in cinematography - Pierre Mignot for **Anne Trister**;
- best achievement in direction - Denys Arcand for **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best achievement for film editing - Monique Fortier for **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best achievement in costume design - Wendy Partridge for **Loyalties**;
- best music score - Michael Conway Baker for **John and the Missus**;
- best original song - Danielle Messia for the song "De la main gauche" in **Anne Trister**;
- best original screenplay - Denys Arcand for **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best adapted screenplay - Leon Marr for **Dancing in the Dark**;
- best achievement in overall sound - Richard Besse, Jean-Pierre Joutel and Adrian Croll for **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best achievement in sound editing - Paul Dion, Diane Boucher, and Andy Malcolm for **Decline of the American Empire**;
- best documentary - **Dads and Kids** - producer, Christian Bruyere;
- best live action short drama - **I Need A Man Like You To Make My Dreams Come True** - producers, Daria Stermac and Kalli Paakspuu;
- best animated short - **Get A Job** - producers, Derek Mazur, Michael Scott and Brad Caslor;
- **The 1986 Golden Reel Award** - **Decline of the American Empire**;
- **The Air Canada Award** for outstanding contributions to the business of filmmaking in Canada - Garth Drabinsky;
- **Outstanding Canadian Film Achievement of Expo '86** - **Taming of the Demons**, produced by Paul Krivicky, created and directed by Emil Radok.

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