

Claude Héroux to score with Circle



MONTREAL - Claude Héroux, producer of *He Shoots, He Scores*, says he faces a great cinematic challenge with the adaptation of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *The First Circle* as a four-hour television mini-series.

"This is not an easy project. The book is not an easy read. The challenge is adapting Solzhenitsyn's thinking to make it attractive not only to intellectuals but to the average cinemagoer as well," says Héroux.

He is aware of the heightened interest in the Soviet Union today. Thus, he says he is confident that Solzhenitsyn's indictment of the Soviet gulag system will become the subject of renewed popular interest during this season of *glasnost*.

The screenplay, to be completed this summer, will be written by Charles Cohen, whose extensive screen-writing career includes work for the CBC, NFB and U.S. television networks (including four hours of ABC's 12-hour mini-series, *Roots*).

The project will be co-produced on a 50/50 per cent basis with Technisor Production of France.

Each two-hour episode will be filmed in both French and English and the production is scheduled to begin in January 1989.

Héroux told *Cinema Canada* that the rights to the acclaimed novel had been available for three years when negotiations began with Solzhenitsyn's agent in the U.S.

Not surprisingly, a feature film adaptation was made in the U.S. several years ago but the film was never shown as the rights had not been acquired.

"We have read two screenplay adaptations but we were not happy with them," says Héroux.

Financial participation, at this early date, consists of private financing with interest shown by TF1 in France.

Héroux has also announced that a third 13-episode series of *He Shoots, He Scores*, will go before the cameras in mid-March.

Fecan casts Armstrong at CBC



TORONTO - Longtime casting director Maria Armstrong has moved to the CBC to take up a position as head of talent.

The casting force behind *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, *My American Cousin*, and *The Terry Fox Story* will now oversee casting for all the CBC's in-house and independent productions. Director of TV programming Ivan Fecan made the announcement, calling Armstrong "one of the finest casting directors in this country."

Armstrong came to Canada from Britain in 1971 with an interest in casting already in mind. Her pre-CBC work includes *The Bay Boy*, *Palais Royale*, *Police Academy I and II*, and *Amerika*.

The CBC's casting agency, headed by Dorothy Gardner, will report to Armstrong.

AMPIA strengthened by Riediger-Duebel



EDMONTON - Joanne Riediger-Duebel is the new executive director of the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association.

She comes to the job by way of marketing, distribution and production at the National Film Board's North West Studio in Edmonton.

"Most Albertans are unaware of the filmmakers in Alberta and I would like to change that," says Riediger-Duebel.

The appointment, effective Feb. 1, was made by Allan Stein, president of the AMPIA.

The 14th annual Alberta Film and Television Festival, sponsored by AMPIA, will be held in Edmonton, March 16 to 20.

Chbib and his Steenbeck

MONTREAL - Independent producer-director Bachar Chbib, never shy about making a point, staged a one-man protest recently, in front of the office building of the Société générale du cinéma du Québec, the provincial funding agency.

Accompanied only by his Steenbeck on which he continued to work on the trailer for his latest film *Clair Obscur*, Chbib and machine



blocked the office entrance for a day and a night.

Chbib claims that the SGCQ has been withholding funds for his latest film.

"I am really getting fed up. They want to go through my production with a fine comb and I am not allowing them," says the filmmaker.

"I've had no trouble with anyone else. Maybe they will stop harassing me if I take the neg and burn it in their office."

The SGCQ, Telefilm Canada and other sources of public funding were the target of his one-man protest at the 1986 Festival of Festivals where Chbib stripped naked just prior to the screening of his film *Evixion*.

McCabe takes on CAB



OTTAWA - As the new president and chief executive officer of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB), Michael McCabe says he is determined to strengthen the private broadcasting industry.

The former executive director of the Canadian Film

Development Corporation and assistant deputy minister of Consumer Affairs in Ottawa says the challenge facing broadcasters is how to remain responsive to social concerns and make a reasonable return on investments.

This, he says, has become increasingly difficult while faced with rising costs in a fragmented marketplace.

Jim Sward, chairman of the joint board of directors of CAB, announced McCabe's appointment effective March 1.

McCabe is currently the president of McCabe Communication Ltd. a business consulting firm. He will succeed David Bond who left the job on September 15.

Radford not yet extinct

EDMONTON - Jiangjunmiao-saurus is not a typo. It is the name of a large prehistoric carnivore unknown before Great North Communications Inc. filmed its discovery, last summer, in China's Gobi Desert.

This summer, Tom Radford, one of three principals of Great North, will return to Inner Mongolia to continue filming where partner Andy Thomson left off. The newly formed production company was selected by the Ex Terra Foundation of Edmonton to document the ongoing Sino-Canada Dinosaur Project.

In Search of the Dragon will consist of two one-hour television specials featuring the paleontological expedition in China and in Alberta.

Ian McLaren, also of Great North, is producing an IMAX feature called *Dragon Bones* which will give an overview of the Dinosaur Project.

Radford says the project will lay to rest all of the old myths about dinosaurs.



"After 150 million years of existence these creatures would have been highly evolved and ruling the planet like the mammals do today if not for a mass extinction 64 million years ago," says Radford.

This, no doubt, would have made remembering names at parties even more difficult than it is today.

Roberts takes hold of big screen



TORONTO - Bianca Roberts, former operator of the now-defunct Cinema Lumiere, has been appointed Film Development Administrator at Imax Systems Corporation.

Roberts, in the newly-created position, will be responsible for soliciting projects for new large-screen Imax and dome-screen Omnimax films. Imax is launching a new outreach program, aimed at supplementing the more than 50 large-format films it has produced for its theatres.

Besides her work at Cinema Lumiere, Roberts has served as a film consultant and publicist, and has acted and written for radio. She holds a Master's degree in History.