

The 1988 Genie Awards

What can one say about the Genies this year without sounding redundant? One can say congratulations *Un Zoo la nuit* (13 times) and one can say, "Right on Rock!" but Megan Follows said it first.

One can say, "Gee! Gordon Pinsent looks great in a tux," and one can say, "For a brilliant actress, Martha Henry sure is a tacky dresser!" One can say, "There's Larry King! He is the King of Kensington!" And one can say, "Who does Donald Sutherland think he is... tonight?"

Despite a well-planned production, this television viewer was left paying more attention to his tortilla chip on Genie Night.

Conceptually, Canada's premier award show failed to entertain and educate (read: promote Canadian films which can rarely afford other effective means of promotion). Like a movie script rewritten one too many times, the show was desperately predictable, high in style but low in creative substance. The direction was technically clean and, inasmuch, impressive – a brisk pace, the presentors moving in and out through highly polished doors of a cinema lobby set. But these presentors brought very little to the podium unless you had just been released by the terrorists or your name happened to be Jean-Claude Lauzon.

Host Megan Follows and Gordon Pinsent did what they do best. And their scripted spontaneity was nice and cozy. In fact they are the embodiment of nice and cozy. My complaint is not that the entire production-variety aspect consisted of a trite (frighteningly lifelike) Brian and Ronnie puppet routine intended to floor me with laughter.

My complaint is that while Chevy Chase casually picks his nose in front of a galaxy of stars on a stage representing megadollars, we can't seem to get it together. We are far too serious, too formal with our no-nonsense production. Give me back the outrageous, the glitches, the

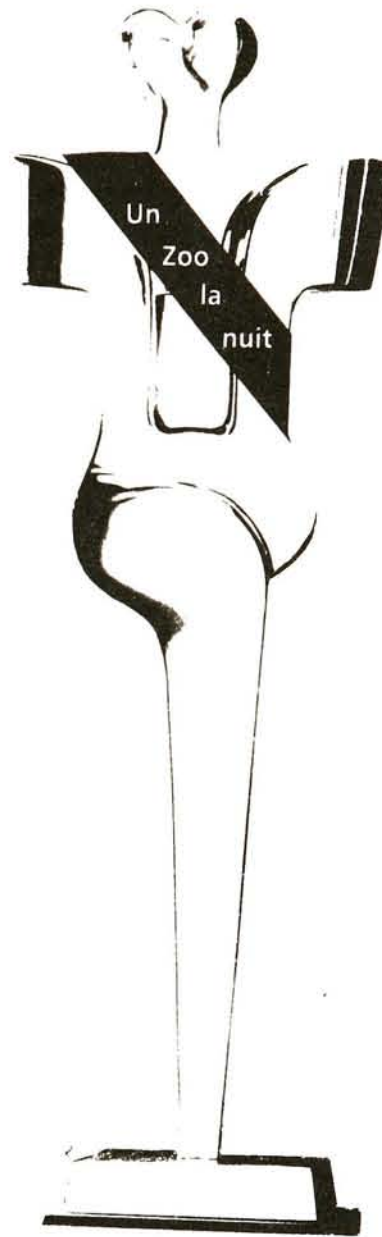


Jean-Claude Lauzon, Guy Dufaux, Roger LeBel, Sheila McCarthy

errors, scandal, (I'll take) dramatic irony. THIS IS ENTERTAINMENT!

I missed the embarrassing freelance dancers, this year, the overweight matinee singer, the odd prop failure. There was not one drunken presenter or award-winner... well maybe one.

In putting together a show like the Genies, the



least one must do is create the illusion that anything can happen. This is the spirit of live showbiz isn't it? – President Reagan's televised press conferences are more exciting than this year's Genies.

We are not interested in a predictable Canadian awards show nicely blocked, nicely

timed, nicely staged in which one might have guessed that one film would bag 75 per cent of the awards. The lesson here is, if you can't entertain us you can't hope to educate us (read: promote your movies). There were, however, one or two bright moments that made more than a few Canadians sit up and drop their tortillas. The greatest moment came halfway through Rock Demers' (Air Canada Award) five-minute tirade against Canada's budding military industrial complex when most Canadians who were not already watching the Genies tuned into what they thought would be The National. Demers' televised assault on the Mulroney government could not have been better timed. Sheila McCarthy (Best Actress), simply had to stand at the podium to effuse raw stardom, and I particularly liked the historic and auspicious denouement of Jean-Claude Lauzon's struggle to be loved by the Toronto media. Thanks for your support, he said, upon receiving Best Director, "and that's no bullshit."

Jean Chantal •

1988 GENIE AWARDS p. Morgan Earle. Joan Tosoni *hd. writer* Briane Nasimok *writers* Charles Lazer, Martha Kehoe, John Pellatt, Allan Novak *line p.* Bob Gibbons *mus. d.* Paul Hoffert *p. sup.* David N. Rosen *tech. p.* Raymond Beley *unit man.* Faith Hanks, Kim Hester *p. acc.* Hennie Pal *set des.* Jim Jones *asst. set des.* Ken Lamb *light.* Ross Viner *cost.* Shirley Lisanti *cost. asst.* Neil Needham, Pam Woodward *set dec.* David Owen *sc. asst.* Dale Turner, Elaine Brown, DJ Anderson *stage man.* Peter Rutherford, Shane Strachan, Mike Brannagan *switcher* Barry Duller, Tony D'Agostino *cam.* Dave Doherty, Tom Farquharson, Mike Gyll, Dave Hacala, Ross Menzies, Mark Milne, Ross Murray, Don Spence *stag. crew. ld.* Wally Sinclair *stag. coor.* George Box *audio.* Simon Bowers, Dave Ripka *p.a. audio* Bruce Graham *graphic* John Simons *makeup* GERALYN Wraith, Beverly Schechtman *hair* Judi Cooper-Sealy, Anita Miles *prod. sec.* Pat Kerr, Betty Orr *film res.* Netonia Brennan *pub.* Tamara Pipa, Elayne Mock *VTR ed.* Pat Hamilton *VTR op.* Brian Nemmett, Rick Urbanski, Mike Weir *chr. gen.* Angela Paquette *trans. coor.* David Stetson *hosts* Gordon Pinsent, Megan Follows *presenters* Denys Arcand, Brigitte Berman, Genevieve Bujold, Nicholas Campbell, Kim Cattrall, Marie-Josée Caya, Maury Chaykin, Guy Chiasson, Matt Craven, Johnathan Crombie, Jennifer Dale, Karen Elkin, Denis Filiatrault, Megan Follows, Martha Henry, Leo Ilija, Jeremy Irons, Jean Leclerc, Carl Marotte, Hollis McLaren, Christine Pak, Gordon Pinsent, Kate Reid, Jackie Richardson, Craig Russell, Linda Sorensen, Jessica Steen, Donald Sutherland, Alan Thicke, John Vernon, Al Waxman, Kenneth Welsh, Sandy Wilson.

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