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To begin, a warm thank-you to everyone who took the time to comment on the B.C. special issue, No. 151. Feedback is always welcome, especially when it comes with suggestions of how to do things better. And, to clear up some confusion about Sarah Walker and Andrea Burchill, the two young actresses from *Housekeeping* who graced our cover; Sarah is actually the taller girl in the white shirt, Andrea is on the left. Sorry for the vague identification.

As you may recall Sarah and Andrea are alumni of the Vancouver Youth Theatre (which also supplied Zachary Ansley to Anne Wheeler's *Cowboys Don't Cry*). VYT premieres its latest stage production "Will the Real Canadian...?" at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre May 11-14. If you're looking for fresh young actors, drop by. But don't dawdle; the show heads off to Australia this summer and there's no shortage of directors down under who know talent when they see it.

- Some awards worth noting:

Anna French is the first Canadian to win the prestigious Bish medal for unusual achievement in the face of adversity. Ten years ago she was volunteering with the archeology crew which discovered the lost city of Acia in the Panamanian jungle. She got involved with an ABC-TV crew and discovered filmmaking. Since then, she's made the documentary on Rick Hansen's Man in Motion tour, also a volunteer project. Now she's working on a feature film for children aimed at the Christmas market.

Robert Brandreth-Gibbs of Yaletown Productions has won the Silver Birch Award from the International Television Association-Canada. The spot was a humorous explanation of an antique car insurance scheme offered by the B.C. Automobile Association. It's now in the running at the ITVA international competition in Las Vegas.

- The Pacific Northwest Multi-Image Festival is looking for submissions for this year's event, June 1-4 in Vancouver. Entries are open to one and all; there will be no pre-screenings and you don't even have to provide a preview video. In fact, the only rule seems to be a maximum length of 20 minutes. Contact the Association for Multi-Image at (604) 879-1999 or Howard Shaw at 681-4391.

- The Vancouver Film Festival is a few months away (Sept. 30 - Oct. 15) but there's an early event on May 7 at the venerable Orpheum Theatre. The VIFF and the Orpheum Heritage Project are presenting the first film ever to win the Best Picture Academy Award, *Wings*, (1928). It's "a tale of love and loss set against the backdrop of World War I... renowned as one of the greatest aviation films ever made with air combat sequences so dramatic that *Star Wars* director George Lucas used them as the model for his aerial dogfight sequences."

If that's not exciting enough, the star, Charles 'Buddy' Rogers is, at the age of 83, coming to Vancouver to present the film. Also popular theatrical organist Gaylord Carter will be on hand to re-create his original score. Tickets between \$12-\$15.

- Pay-TV's Superchannel is reported to be investing in B.C. filmmaking. Polaris Entertainment is producing three supernatural half-hour dramas written by Lindsay Bourne and Gregory Marquette. Lighthouse Films is shooting a feature-length futuristic action/adventure called *City Of Dark* by Bruno Pacheco.

Superchannel is also putting some money into three projects-in-the-works: Robert Frederick Productions' made-for-TV *Shadow in the Works* (based on the story of filmmaker Edward Curtis), Sandy Wilson's feature *Florence* and Margaret Steley's *The Snow Queen*.

- Jon Stoddart Productions' *A Different Dance*, the first episode in the CBC anthology series, *Family Pictures*, began shooting in late April. This story of generation-gap problems specific to immigrant families will be broadcast next January.

The project has received support and funding from the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Telefilm, B.C. Film and The CBC.

- West Coast writer / producer Robert Popoff is trying to finance a feature called *Pacific Bound*, and has run into a few problems along the way. He received some money from Telefilm for development and will be working with Peter Colley on a rewrite of the script.

Popoff is upset, like many Canadian filmmakers, about recent tax changes regarding investment in Canadian films. He wrote to finance minister Michael Wilson, who replied that he felt the changes bring fairness to the tax system and that he didn't agree with Popoff's suggestion that the cut in tax breaks might kill the industry here. Wilson did say he had been discussing ways of helping filmmakers with other cabinet ministers.

In the meantime, Popoff hasn't given up on his feature, which tells the story of a Saskatoon law student who quits school and heads for the coast on his Harley to buy a charter boat with money from an inheritance.

- After four years of study, a new crop of film and video students are about to emerge from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design. As is the custom, their work will be screened as part of the College's annual Grad Show. The gala opening is May 7 but the show, and the films / videos, will continue through May. Phone 687-2345 local 256 for the schedule.