



DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA

For over a quarter of a century, the Directors Guild has fostered the craft of film making across Canada, representing professionals who play a vital role in the development of our vibrant industry.

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Lighthouse Productions has finished shooting its first feature, *The Traveller*, and is well into editing.

The film tells the story of a white man, Robert, who has grown up in a West Coast native community, married a native woman and has studied and taught anthropology at a university producers say is "remarkably similar to UBC." Robert has split with his wife and gone to Toronto to work in a museum. The film begins when he returns to B. C. to find some artifacts for the museum and deals with the pull he feels from each of the two cultures.

All shooting was done in Vancouver and the lower mainland area, includes a number of native locations and native roles. The native community here has praised the production as portraying it in a realistic and contemporary manner, and the Lighthouse film crew is the first in years to be allowed to shoot in the university's Museum of Anthropology, according to production spokesperson Ted Pallas.

The Traveller is aiming to premiere at this year's Festival of Festivals and will likely be handled by André Bennett at Cinephile (... *Mermaids Singing*). The script was co-written by Jean Pierre Lefebvre and Bruno Pacheco, with Pacheco also directing; Raymond Massey was producer.

And, speaking of travelling, the British Columbia Motion Picture Association is now set up in their new offices (half a block closer to the coast, on Hastings). They now have a great deal more elbow room with five rooms instead of their previous one. The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television rents an office from the BCMPA.

The space is certainly not going to waste. Natalie McCowen, the association co-ordinator, is busy working on the resource library's data base. This new service makes taking out a corporate membership quite a bargain now that they've reduced the rate to \$300 from \$1,000. And, if you have a \$50 individual card already, you can end up paying a mere \$250. Offer expires at the end of this month.

Bob Dubberly, executive director, adds that the BCMPA will begin holding annual film awards in 1989 for craft and excellence by B. C. filmmakers.

• Praxis just wrapped-up its spring workshop for writers, with five script participants. Four of the screenplays were from Vancouver (which was a surprise to Praxis, since the scripts are read without names or addresses, says Patricia Gruben, co-director) and one was from a Winnipeg writer who now lives in New York.

"I am very impressed with the quality of the scripts we receive," says Gruben, "especially given these are not commissioned but come from writers who feel so strongly about them they are willing to write on spec." She added that producers are beginning to call Praxis in search of good scripts.

The spring session brought in writers: Kit Carson, Sharon Riis, Linda Feferman and Phil Savath. For the first portion of the workshop, participants work with the writers and each script is read twice by a repertory company. Then the visiting directors come in, and the scripts are gone over once more. This session, directors included Robert M. Young (*Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*), Randa Haines (*Children of a Lesser God*), Jill Godmillow (*Waiting for the Moon*), Stuart Margolin (*Glitterdome*), and David Burton Morris (*Patti Rocks*).

The fall session will feature the regular nine-week program in which people work with a story editor at their own pace, and will add a new, one-week intensive workshop. Deadline for fall seminars is July 15.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll see a review of Hy Perspectives Media docu-drama *Close to Home* to be broadcast nationally on CBC-TV on June 18. The Vancouver company has picked up a second broadcast agreement from Mother Corp; *Walking in Pain* is an hour-long documentary about native drug and alcohol abuse counsellor Marge Mackie-Orr. CBC-British Columbia will broadcast the program this month or July.

• Vancouver Province film writer Michael Walsh used his calculator while writing about the sudden change of direction at the International Film Festival. Concerned about the level of public subsidy the Festival received last year, he figured out that revenues from memberships (\$10,684) and ticket sales (\$204,822) worked out to \$4.14 per ticket. Government grants totalled \$494,855 or \$9.52 per ticket. Walsh goes on to ask:

"One argument advanced in favour of film festivals is that they offer us films we otherwise wouldn't see. Who's kidding whom?"

"In the first 17 weeks of 1988, 85 feature films opened here... we don't miss much. Certainly not enough to warrant sticking the taxpayers with the bill for an annual film festival."

Be that as it may, the Vancouver Festival is inviting submissions for this year's event (September 30-October 15). Joanna Yamaguchi is looking for features, shorts, fiction and documentaries. Send videos to her at #303-788 Beatty Street, Vancouver, V6B 2M1.

Some notes from CBC-Vancouver:

The venerable *Beachcombers* will undergo a few technical changes in the new season. It will continue to be shot on film but will be transferred to tape for editing at Gastown Productions.

For the last three years Helen Slinger has been at the helm of the local supper-hour newscast *NewsCentre*. She's moving from fact to fiction as an executive producer of TV-Drama on the West Coast.