

First of all, congratulations to Natalie McGowan and the B. C. Motion Picture Association for a memorable "Wrap 88" party. There had been concern that \$75 a ticket was too much, but the evening was well worth it if only for the reassurance that there are some Vancouverites who dress well. Most of the 1,000-plus industry luminaries who showed up at the Hotel Vancouver had taken the theme of 'creative' black tie to heart, a welcome change from the drab finery one is accustomed to seeing here in the rain forest. Speeches were mercifully few and economically presented; Bob Robertson of CBC Radio's *Double Exposure* read the good wishes of both Ronald Reagan and Premier Bill Vanderzalm: "How about a film about David Poole? (The premier's ex-executive assistant who left his job \$100,000 richer after several scandals made him a political liability) You could call it *Fistful of Dollars!*". And, congratulations to Thomas Howe, winner of the first B. C. Film Industry Builder Award.

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A presentation that received less attention was that of the 5th Annual Sam Payne Award, an ACTRA-CBC honor. Payne, who died in 1982, had a low ACTRA number, 01-0044. This year's recipient, Dorothy Davies, was also with the union from the beginning; her lifetime number is V01-00023! Davies and Payne worked together in innumerable CBC Radio Drama and community theatre productions. They were both members of Island Theatre, a company that delivered a new three-act play each week - by boat. The award is made for "humanity, integrity and encouragement of young talent." Previous winners include Pamela Hawthorne (of the New Play Centre) and writer/actor Joy Coghill.

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Joris Ekering, one of the many former presidents of ACFC-Vancouver, has resurfaced with his own company, Media Electrics. He provides low-cost production services for groups like Theatrespace, Massey Productions, Karen Jamieson Dance and All Set Design. From the back of a Toyota van, Ekering and crew will install electrics, design lighting, build sets and lay on special effects. Phone 299-5929.

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The casting couch has been computerized.

A Toronto actor who spent two years developing a data-based talent bank called ShowBase has signed his first customer, the B. C. Performers Council of ACTRA. Since then Bob Dermer has also convinced several casting agencies, including CBC-TV, that his idea works.

The system provides endless cross-referencing of a performer's special talents. If, for instance, a director needs a Greek-speaking actor who can both rollerskate and sing soprano, he just punches those requirements into ShowBase. Everyone who meets the qualifications is immediately shortlisted - complete with colour photos! *Beachcombers'* Jackson Davies says it's fantastic, "I just don't know whether to put down bald or balding."

There's an interesting non-discrimination circuit in ShowBase as well. While casting agents and directors can specify ethnic types, they can't call up only Caucasians. Dermer says this will remind producers of the diversity of Canada's performers and could, with luck, increase ethnic representation in film and on TV.

ShowBase's head office is in Toronto, (416) 977-0440.

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Dropped by a Writers Information session for *Bordertown* recently. They're still looking for six scripts for the first 26-episode season but, be warned, you'll be serving many masters. The half-hour Western is a co-production of France's TeleImage, the U.S. Christian Broadcasting Network and Global TV. Apparently CBN wants family viewing (no sex, drinking or swearing but you can kill as many characters as you like), Global is looking for a cowboy *Night Heat* and TeleImage insists on French guest stars.

The basic story is that of a small town cut in half by the 49th parallel. Leads are a marshal, a mountie and a French widow. Turns out her late husband was a doctor; she's somehow acquired all of his medical skills and set herself up as an ex-officio doctor. No resident bad guys so there's an opportunity to go wild!

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Busy times at the BCMPA going into 1989! In co-operation with IATSE, the Association is launching an industry training survey. Questionnaires should have arrived by the time you see this; they concentrate on behind-the-camera talent needs going into the '90s.

The AGM is January 25th at the Robson Square Media Centre (7 p.m.). Expect announcements of a 20 per cent off travel deal with American Express and a medical-dental plan.

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A fascinating mini-film festival from Cinestir Productions provided welcome relief from Christmas kitsch. At two midnight screenings at the Unit Pitt Gallery Theatre the company presented seven short horror films made on a collective budget of about \$60,000. Titles included *Rapid Eye Movement* (18 min, "a fantasy adventure which includes the Mafia, sorcers, dungeons, armed robbery,

gargoyles and a bag of Oreos as the gate between two worlds"), *Cancerman* (14 min, "the tale of a man and a toxic mutation") and *The Gates* (10 min, a re-creation of the recurring legend of a phantom hitchhiker). Cinestir is now developing two features, two education films and a number of rock videos.

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CBC-TV Drama has given the go-ahead for a half-dozen scripts and a Bible for a possible series called *Eye Level*. In a sense it's a spin-off of *Close to Home*, a docu-drama about young street prostitutes produced by Ric Beirsto and Harvey Crossland of Hy Perspectives (reviewed in *Cinema Canada* # 153). *Eye Level* will be an ongoing dramatic series with a juvenile POV - think of it as *Street Illegal*.

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The Maritimes' loss, our gain. Kevin Evans is about to leave his job as East Coast national reporter for CBC-TV News, move four time zones west and take on main anchor duties with the Corporation's supper-hour *Newscentre*. He replaces Cecelia Walters and Bill Good Jr., who's now a private radio open-line host.



**The Dorothy and Oscar Burritt  
Memorial Award is 25 years old!  
In celebration  
the 1989 Award is \$2,500**

This amount is offered to an individual or volunteer organization hoping to undertake/complete/start a project designed to enrich and enhance film appreciation, and which will contribute to a wider enjoyment and awareness of film as an art.

**ENTER THE 1989 SILVER ANNIVERSARY  
COMPETITION NOW!**

Dorothy and Oscar Burritt founded the film society movement in Canada, and this Award perpetuates the unique spirit and dedication of these true film pioneers.

The Award-winner will be notified after the Victoria Day weekend, May 20-22, 1989.

1989 application forms available from the Dorothy and Oscar Burritt Memorial Award, P.O. Box 484, Station A, Toronto, Ont. M5W 1E4 (or contact trustee, Pat Thompson, at (416) 922-5772).

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY FORMS IS  
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989.**

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Administered by the Canadian Federation of Film Societies, the Dorothy and Oscar Burritt Memorial Award is registered as a charity under the Income Tax Act. Donations to the capital fund are more than welcome, and receive a receipt for tax purposes when sent to the above address.