

Canada/France co-production treaty under close examination

MONTREAL - The question of whether Canada/France co-productions will be accepted by the European economic council as an inclusive part of the French quota system remains an open question.

In its efforts towards harmonization of a pan-European market by 1992 the European council of ministers has issued a directive that 60 per cent of television programming must be of European origin.

The bilateral co-production agreement between Canada and France provides that Canada/France co-productions are counted as part of a current 50 per cent French-language quota even if Canada has taken a minority position in the co-production project.

The new directive stipulates that France must have a majority position in the project in order for it to be counted within the 60 per cent quota and not be relegated to the 40 per cent wasteland of largely U.S. programs.

A tripartite commission of Canada/Quebec/France has been discussing the issue which will be tabled before the European parliament this month and sent back to the council of ministers if amendments are necessary.

A spokesperson for Communications Canada told *Cinema Canada* that she is optimistic that a final agreement will favor all parties.

"It is not difficult for Canadians to understand why Europeans are attempting to protect their own market. It was only recently when they realized that this audio-visual legislation might have an negative impact on the co-production treaty."

OFDC in Paris to boost co-productions

TORONTO - Ontario premier David Peterson and the OFDC held a reception in Paris in April to give a boost to the many co-productions between film producers in Ontario and their international partners. Wayne Clarkson, chairman and CEO of the OFDC, expects there to be "120 to 150,000" worth of co-production dollars in the coming year, which he called a "pleasant surprise".

The trip was a trade mission sponsored by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, and representatives of Toronto-based Alliance Entertainment, Atlantis Films, Nelvana and Sunrise

Productions were invited to come along. In Paris they met with senior executives from major French film production and television companies. Clarkson told *Cinema Canada* that "it was valuable to have the Premier there to represent the importance of co-productions to Ontario."

Imax goes to Russia

TORONTO - Imax Systems Corp. of Toronto has signed a joint enterprise agreement in Moscow with Znanije, the "All Union Knowledge

Society" which operates museums and planetariums throughout the Soviet Union. The agreement calls for the creation of SOVIMAX and the building of a least one IMAX/OMNIMAX theatre in the Soviet Union. There are currently 58 IMAX/OMNIMAX theatres operating in 14 countries around the world.

Following 10 months of negotiations, the agreement was signed in February by Imax president Graeme Ferguson and executives from Znanije. A committee has been struck to determine a site for the theatre and to begin developing ideas for the first Soviet IMAX production.

Canada and Ireland sign film treaty

OTTAWA - The Irish/Canada Film and Video Co-production Treaty was signed in Dublin on April 4.

Present were Dennis McDermott, Canadian ambassador for Ireland and Brian Lenihan, Irish deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

The first official co-production, *Brylcreem Boys* has been scheduled to start shooting at the end of May. It will be co-produced by Opix Films (Ireland) and the Telescene Film Group.

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