

CHRIS MAJKA



Prince Edward Island News

Fast-talking Lee Flemming from P. E. I.'s Island Media Arts Co-op is in San Francisco shooting material and doing research for *The Knowing Hand*, an independent documentary/experimental film. Writes Lee, "Using narration based on feminist text, discussion and poetry, the film will draw images and visuals from music, movement, art, and land/seascape that celebrate the erotic. I want to collect images; a collage of visuals that express the erotic and intimate in our lives." I eagerly await its appearance. Good thing Lee is collecting material on the west coast. Having spent considerable time in P. E. I.'s distinctly non-erotic bible belt, I am always reminded of Earle Birney's limerick; "O here is an isle/ where the sands run for miles/ but the lobster's not here for the plucking. / The water's berg cold/ the ladies not bold/ & only Milt Acorn says fucking."

Lee has just finished mixing her first film, *Profiles of Immigrant Women*, a 15-minute production about the experiences of immigrant women to P. E. I. and is doing research with Carol Millett on a film called *Girls to Girls*, which explores why girls do not participate equally in physical activity. Sounds like a busy year ahead. Also on the Island, filmmaker Dave Ward has just launched three p. s. a. 's for the P. E. I. Council of the Disabled, the P. E. I. Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and the Multicultural Council. Word is that they've turned out very well. Island Media has also received a grant through which it has hired artist Jodee Samuelson as a production trainee in animation. They are also well into planning for the Sixth Annual Atlantic Film and Video Producers Conference which this year will take place in Stanhope-by-the-Sea on June 22-25. They've been getting better and better every year...

Lifesize: Women and Film

Speaking of women and film, a group in Halifax called Lifesize: Women and Film is organizing a film series this month at Wormwoods which will include features by Margareta von Trotta, Léa Pool, Lizzie Borden, Yvonne Rainer, Agnes Varda, V. Chytilova, and J. Bashore. This will be dovetailed with two week-long workshops in scriptwriting and directing led by Mireille Dansereau and Norma Bailey (tentatively) respectively. These will be open to interested women filmmakers in the region and will give participants an opportunity to work with some top-notch professional women in the field.

Maritime Independent Television

A new face on the broadcast scene in the Maritimes is Maritime Independent Television (MITV). For the last six months this Irving family-owned network has been slugging it out with Atlantic Television (ATV), the CTV affiliate, the Atlantic Satellite Network (ASN) and the CBC affiliate, CBHT, for viewers, ratings and slice of the \$75 million regional advertising pie. The going is not necessarily easy. ASN has accumulated a debt of \$4 million in its six years of operation and doesn't anticipate breaking even until 1990 at the earliest. MITV hopes to break even in three to four years with revenues of \$5.5 million/year.

They have some very modern and versatile studio facilities and hope to attract productions to them. With this in mind they teamed up with Screen Star, a local production company, to produce a pilot for a soap opera series called *The Distant Shore*. If syndicators in Canada and the U. S. can put together enough potential buyers, they would like to have the series go into production in the fall.

Atlantic Filmmakers Co-Op

The good news from AFCOOP is that it has managed to buy a new 8-plate Steenbeck to replace the one which burned last fall. Paul Mitchelltree and John Taylor tracked down one in Montreal and after a few adjustments, it's up and running.

This month, the Independent Film and Video Alliance will be meeting in Halifax and AFCOOP is the host group. A steering committee has been organizing the week-long event since January and has recently received a grant to hire a conference co-ordinator and a co-ordinator for a film showcase to be shown at the time of the meeting.

AFCOOPer Glen Walton teamed up last summer with folksinger Ed McCurdy to make a "folk" video of McCurdy's 1949 hit song *Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream*. Walton and McCurdy also collaborated on *The Room At The Back*, a short drama in which Ed McCurdy plays (appropriately enough) an aging folksinger being thrown out of his apartment as a result of gentrification. Glen told me that editing of these films is progressing very well and they should be ready for release in the near future.



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