

ONTARIO
ARTS
COUNCIL

The Ontario Arts Council offers grants to professional artists who are residents of Ontario, working in the following disciplines:

SCREENWRITING

to assist with the development of feature-length dramatic screenplays.

Deadline: February 1

FILM

towards the production costs of documentary, dramatic, animated or experimental films.

Deadlines: April 1, November 1

VIDEO

to assist with the production of original video art.

Deadlines: February 1, August 15

Please note: all applications must be supported by examples of recent work.

For further information and application forms, contact:

Film, Photography and Video Office
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
151 Bloor Street West, Suite 500
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1T6 (416) 961-1660

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Shoot Alberta

LINDA EARL



CALGARY - Helene White, president of HBW Films of Calgary, has entered into co-production agreement with Sylvia Anderson Associates, Pinewood Studios, and Omandry International Ltd., both of the United Kingdom. White, who is best known as the producer/director of *Connecting*, a syndicated television teen talk-show, announced her move into feature film production at the 10th International Banff Television Festival. The enterprising deal includes three projects.

Slated for a fall shoot in southern Alberta is *A Matter of Time*, based on the novel of the same name by American author, Jessamyn West. Sylvia Anderson, HBO representative for the U.K. and creator of the super-marionette classic, *Thunderbirds*, has written the screenplay. *A Matter of Time* chronicles the close relationship between two sisters, one of whom becomes terminally ill. The \$4-5 million picture has U.S. as well as Canadian and U.K. financial involvement. Negotiations are underway with a Canadian director.

Pacesetter Productions Ltd., another U.K. independent, is also involved in the second project, a romantic adventure called, *The Meeting*. Not wishing to reveal much of the contemporary storyline, White would only say that "the protagonist, a young woman, is a Canadian who moves from Alberta to the Soviet Union." About 30 per cent of *The Meeting* will be shot in and around Calgary, commencing February 1990.

The aggressive producer, who acknowledges "the need to look for universal elements in a story when putting co-productions together," has also come up with a treatment of her own. *Tel*, the story of a British teenager who suffers culture shock when he immigrates into Canada with his family, is a made-for-television film with U.K. participation from Diverse Productions Inc. of London, England. Sylvia Anderson is the British writer on the team; White has yet to decide on the Canadian writer. Since part of the story is set during the Calgary Stampede, *Tel* is expected to start principal photography in the summer of 1990.

AWARD-WINNING DREAMS

Calgary filmmaker Wendy Hill-Tout's documentary about schizophrenia, *Shattered Dreams*, has picked up its second major award. After winning best documentary and best sound at the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association awards in February, *Shattered Dreams* has won the Golden Sheaf award for best documentary under 30 minutes at the 25th annual Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival.

**OFDC announces
third-year results**

TORONTO - S. Wayne Clarkson, chairman and chief executive officer of the Ontario Film Development Corporation, told a news conference held in Toronto June 13 to announce the results of the agency's third year of operation. "The OFDC and its clients have had a healthy year and a strong three years. The level of U.S. production has declined, but the total dollar figure has remained constant.

"There is going to be constant fluctuation of U.S. production in Ontario by the value of the Canadian dollar and by competitive edge. It is going to continue to go up and down. But I'd be more worried if indigenous production goes down." Clarkson said that the OFDC has participated in 184 projects in fiscal year 88-89, committing a total of over \$6.1 million. The aggregated budgets of the projects supported by the provincial agency was over \$39.8 million. The OFDC's 88-89 budget was \$8.6 million.

Clarkson noted that "this year saw a marked increase in the number of co-ventures between Ontario and foreign producers." Atom Egoyan's *Speaking Parts* was produced with British and Italian money. Atlantis' *The Firing*

Squad, currently being shot in France, is an official Canada/France co-production, and Pat Rozema's latest, *White Room*, is being financed in Canada and the United Kingdom.

The breakdown of the OFDC's third-year commitment is as follows: 111 projects in development (\$972,276); 13 feature film productions (\$3,256,620); 18 television productions (\$1,250,760); and 42 special projects (\$646,224). Clarkson also announced that the investment by the OFDC in any one feature film project has been increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000 and the OFDC has amended its program guidelines so that it can now participate in projects on a 50-50 basis with film funding agencies and producers from other provinces. Previous regulations required that the Ontario producer be in a majority position.

Clarkson concluded by commenting on the downturn in Ontario film, television and commercial production noted by several industry sources (see *Cinema Canada* no. 164). "The OFDC cannot and will not watch the creative and economic base that has been developed in this province erode," he said. "We will continue to work with the industry, with other Canadian film agencies and commissions and with the provincial government to address the challenges facing the Ontario production community."