

ONTARIO

NATIONAL FILM BOARD Regional Office, opened in Toronto in late spring, is beginning to show signs of life. Executive Producer Don Hopkins and Program Development Producer Beryl Fox attended the CCFM Annual General Meeting to answer



Beryl Fox photo Stephen Chesley

questions from the film community, and in June released a statement of objectives after further meetings with the local filmmakers. First priorities are to improve NFB Ontario programming, to increase local industry support, and to contribute to development of talent. Basic format to be used is the documentary short, and the focus will be on local themes and heritage. Planned also are a theatrical shorts program celebrating Canadian events and popular culture, and a film clip program on conservation for children. Drama is not forgotten; Janine Manatis is running a summer seminar for actors, writers and directors of professional calibre, held three nights a week.

TV ONTARIO notes two new achievements. One is the addition of transmitters for Chatham and Windsor, thus adding 500,000 viewers to audience potential. And the network has landed an exclusive showing, set for fall, of a BBC hour interview with Solzhenitsyn... Ryerson's photo arts department held a three-week summer seminar at the Blue Mountain Lodge on Georgian Bay. Subject was Media and Communication and resource people worked with the 30 people who paid \$210 to attend; enrollment was restricted to that number to increase personal involvement.

TORONTO FILMMAKERS' CO-OP, facing increased gov-

ernment pressure to act on new funding guidelines even though they're only rumours at this time, is making physical changes to upgrade its centre and receive revenue from facilities. A refurbished screening room will be rented out, a sound transfer system has been obtained, as well as a Xerox machine. Plans are to carry on with the valuable and well-received workshops again this fall, as well as a revival of a Co-op-run cable TV show. At the same time the Co-op was informed that its City of Toronto grant was cut in half, and their bid for a Metro Toronto grant was unsuccessful.

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL announced senior and junior grants to filmmakers. Receiving senior grants, worth up to \$10,000, were Michael Barnes, Tad Jaworski, Julius Kohanyi,



Julius Kohanyi

Paul Mackan, Larry Nelson, Kim Ondaatje, Peter Rowe, Paul Shapiro, Cameron Tingley, Eric Wraite, Leonard Yakir, and Sam Firestone.

Junior grants, worth up to \$3000, were awarded to David Anderson, C. Babin, Anthony Bliss, Peter Cooke, Ivo Christante, Richard Dobrucki, Timothy Eaton, Edwina Frankford, David Fulton, Raymond Gallon, John Gray, A. Khandwani, David Leach, Lorne Levy, Rory McLean, Peter Maynard, Marilyn Mueller, Tom New, Jaan Pill, Michael Posin, David Springbett, Paul Stephens and Eric Jordan, Sudda Thakkar, C.R. Wrench, Peter Wronski, and Rebecca Yates... And the OAC, along with the CFDC and last year's leader Stanley Colbert (now chief of film production for CBC drama) hope to run the screenwriters' course again this fall.

Stephen Chesley

QUEBEC

INSTITUT. The members of the Institut de cinéma québécois have been named by the minister of communications, Denis Hardy. These appointees were chosen from lists submitted by the responsible associations (each association suggested three names). The members are as follows: producers - Guy Fournier, directors - Jean Dansereau, distributors - Rock Demers, exhibitors - Paul Gendron, technicians and actors - François Protat. The first meeting of the Institut will take place on August 12. After concluding a contract with the ministry of communications, the Institut will be responsible for administering \$4 million which should go to all sectors of the film industry in Quebec.

SNC-APFQ: Negotiations between the Syndicat national du cinéma and the Association des producteurs de films du Québec were broken off by a vote of the general assembly of the SNC on July 15 as they refused the interim contract which had been offered to the technicians, after negotiation, for the period covering the Olympics. Efforts are being made by both sides to impose employment conditions, and the APFQ reiterates constantly its desire to negotiate a settlement. Feelings are running high and, as of August 2, any technician who works without a SNC contract is to be excluded from the union. Nevertheless, members of the APFQ are managing to shoot - though, they admit, under less than optimal conditions - and have guaranteed those working with them that they will not sign a collective agreement with the SNC if the technicians who are now at work are excluded from the union. So far, the producers have not signed the contracts.

CANCELLED. Les Productions Prisma was the first and hardest hit of the Montreal production companies. Because of the union conflict it was obliged to cancel a low-budget feature by André Melançon, **Les six doigts de la main**. The CFDC had already invested \$90,000 in this children's film. A second feature, scheduled to begin in late August, is seriously compromised and may have to be cancelled. Called **Nous som-**

mes tous les propriétaires, the film was written and was to be directed by Fernand Dansereau.

Connie Tadros

ELIZA - After a 10-week run in the Unitarian Church on Sherbrooke Street in downtown Montreal, **Eliza's Horoscope** will re-open in a Montreal cinema this fall. Fall openings are also planned for Vancouver, Toronto, New York and San Francisco.

Gordon Sheppard, who produced and directed **Eliza's Horoscope** and whose company O-Zali Films is distributing it, says the church opening was calculated to surround the film with the appropriate atmosphere and to draw attention to it. "The film comes out of anonymity... people want the director's credentials before they'll accept a film of the magnitude of **Eliza's Horoscope**."

Though Sheppard will not disclose box office receipts he says the arrangement was financially successful. Tickets cost a competitive \$3.50. On sale at a counter in the vestibule of the church were **Eliza's Horoscope** posters, in English and French, postcards and Rainbow glasses.

Members of the Board of the First Unitarian Church of Montreal agreed to rent the church after casting a narrow majority vote. The screenings, however, caused dissension among members of the congregation, some of whom objected in principle to the commercial use of the church sanctuary.

The church was decorated with astrology masks, from the orgy scene in the film, and cedar boughs. The screenings (one late showing six nights a week) were preceded by a short theatrical presentation: two masked and gowned figures dedicated the film to various parts of Montreal. Sheppard appeared in a clown's mask, gesturing over a candle and inviting his audience to view the film.

He plans to hold on to the distribution rights of the film until someone offers him a substantially better distribution deal than those received prior to the successful church run.

Joan Irving