

REVERB

bible recommended

Mother Tongue — a rave review.

"May seems to be avoiding it." K. Dolgy — Cinema Canada, No. 66.

Dolgy is absolutely right — I am.

What I am avoiding is any definition of her 'truth.' What she finds inadequate is the film's failure to meet the categorical standards of the 'genre' and the filmmaker who "is not determined, above all else, to inform."

Dolgy is absolutely right — again.

Her definition of the aim of the "traditions of the documentary" is heady stuff — it is also tight-assed and humourless.

For someone so suspicious of "poetics" and with a talent for reducing lies and truths into lifeless points of order, she (Dolgy) should clean up her method of quotation and her powers of observation.

She falsely attributes quotes to me (we have never met) and misquotes Patricia Nolin "from the film." She refers to a "multitude of settings" in which Patricia Nolin (my wife) is seen: there are in fact about six separate locations and even fewer changes of 'costumes'.

The "material, foreign to the time and place of the situation portrayed" is in fact imagery chosen for its historical accuracy and emotional relevance.

Her distortion of that which is simply observable is perfectly illustrated by her reference to "stock studio footage" of "an actor doing a stunt." It is, in fact, archival footage of a market porter carrying many baskets on his head. My father was (in fact) a market porter. And so on and so on...

The editors of Cinema Canada should unleash Dolgy's appetite for the truth on something more substantial. How about the Bible?

Derek May

Director, **Mother Tongue**

Katherine Dolgy wrote the following response to Derek May's letter above.

Mr. May:

Your anger at a fair review has caused you to lose your memory. The first quotation was taken down in front of you at the Toronto **Mother Tongue** press conference, where we met. The second is a direct quotation from the film taken down during the press screening. The other three are word-for-word from your NFB press release.

There is of course no such thing as "my" truth. Your responsibility as a film-

maker is your business, my responsibility as writer and critic is to respond from insight, with honesty.

Mr. May, you seem to be accustomed to the sort of critic who does your P.R. for you. The point is: being Canadian doesn't guarantee a favourable review — the film has to be good (remember the film?).

Katherine Dolgy

Reviewer of **Mother Tongue**

it took team work

I wish to thank you for the article you have published in the August issue entitled "Larger than Life," concerning our series of animated films **The Secret Railroad/ Les voyages de Tortillard**. It was most gratifying to read such an enthusiastic reaction to the years of effort that have gone into this production.

While I realize that your article was concerned with the production of the film, I feel that more emphasis could have been given to the artistic side of the production without which, of course, no film of this quality would have been thinkable.

In this respect the role of Peter Sander, the creator and director of the film, and of Danielle Marleau, as co-author and designer was decisive and all important. The idea for this series of films was conceived and developed by Peter Sander and the various delightful episodes were co-authored by Danielle Marleau.

The extraordinary teamwork and professional approach which every member of our team displayed over the past three years is what made those films possible. So of course I would have been most pleased if you had identified our music composer, Hagood Hardy, our editor Michel Guay, and our animator Chesney Long.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to produce and be part of that team.

Louise Ranger
Producer

Do You Know The Whole Story?

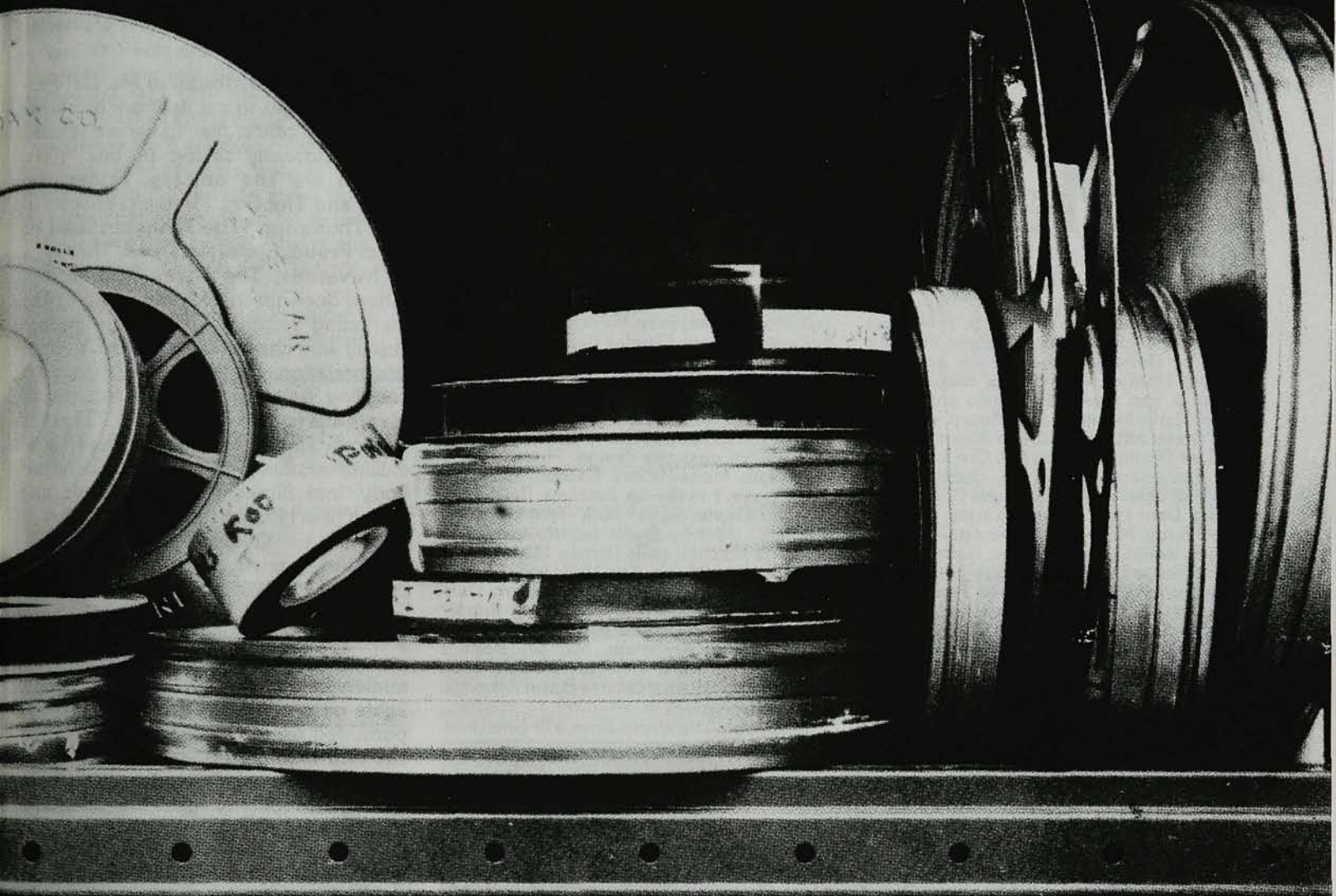
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