

BOOK REVIEWS

The Canadian Movie Quiz Book
by Michael Walsh; Macmillan-NAL
Publishing Ltd., \$2.25

Next to the Book of Lists and The Guinness Book of World Records — books which one critic termed “non-books” — I adore quiz, and particularly quiz books about the movies. Bathroom reading at its very, very best. But I thought my supply had been exhausted until I happened upon a curious book in Cine Books in Toronto. There it sat, inviting me to pick it up. I was rather astonished that Michael Walsh had been able to compile enough film titles to make a quiz book based on Canadian films.

But the Vancouver-based critic has done it . . . sort of. That is, he cheats a tiny bit in places. Some of his entries deal with such topics as international performers who have appeared in Canadian films as well as American productions which have been filmed here. There's even a topic on Canada's national sport of hockey, with questions that have absolutely nothing to do with Canada. So, to call this book **The Canadian Movie Quiz Book** is a bit of a misnomer.

But . . . it's still fun. It's surprising to learn that so many American films are made on our turf and that such illuminaries as James Cagney, Marilyn Monroe and Shelley Winters have all appeared in films made here, while Jodie Foster, Oliver Reed, Samantha Eggar and even Rita Hayworth have made no less than two Canadian features each. And Donald Pleasance has made eight.

With movie-making in this country at an all time high — there's some \$150 million in production now — Walsh's book may yet find its market. While there were virtually dozens available in Cine Books, I have not seen a single copy here in Winnipeg, since its May release.

And as a Winnipegger I feel slighted. Not only is the book not available, but my home town has been pretty much left out of most of the current action. We can cling tenaciously to the fact that Deanna Durbin, an ex-Winnipegger, merits several questions as does Jack Kruschen, another

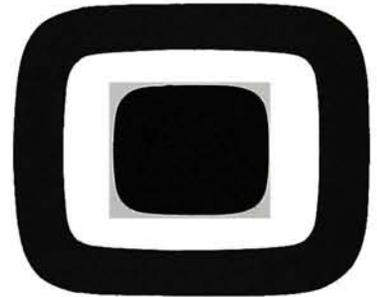
Winnipegger who copped a 1960 supporting actor Oscar nomination for *The Apartment*. Winnipeg saw some action this fall when parts of *Silence of the North* were filmed here, but even that has Winnipeg masquerading as depression-era Calgary. Our position might have been quite different today had the Manitoba government had the foresight to invest in production when American actor Darren McGavin wanted to establish a company in Gimli, a small Icelandic community about 50 miles from Winnipeg.

But, so what if Winnipeg doesn't pop up much — that's just a personal gripe. Walsh manages to dig up a multitude of fascinating tidbits, taking particular delight in pointing out that Tyrone Power, Nelson Eddie, Randolph Scott, Robert Ryan, Errol Flynn, Peter O'Toole and Donald Sutherland have all played mounties. Walsh has an amusing tongue-in-cheek style which gently satirizes our own position in the movie-making business, as well, showing how we've been caricatured in the eyes of the world. But he doesn't force the issue the way Pierre Burton did in **Hollywood's Canada**.

So, if you're interested in Canadians in the movies, movies made in Canada, movies made by Canadians elsewhere, movies about Canadians and even Canadian-made features, Walsh's book is worth the \$2.25. He says that the land of northern lights is also the birthplace of glittering stars. What does it matter that the late Mary Pickford was dubbed “Amer-

ica's Sweetheart.” We know she was born in Toronto, and will forever be Canadian. We have to hang on to every little bit of Canadiana.

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