

LES QUEBECOIS



Pascal Gélinas' first feature **MONTREAL BLUES** is Canada's official entry at the Pesaro Festival of New Cinema, one of Europe's most serious film festivals. The film will have its Canadian 'avant-premiere' at the Cinémathèque québécoise on September 14th, and is due for fall release, with France Film distributing.

LA MAUDITE GALETTE, Denys Arcand's already notorious film (Semaine de la critique at Cannes, Poitiers, and London), opened in Montréal on September 7th at the St. Denis theatre. **GALETTE** is about gangsters, the underworld, the dregs of humanity who live a life of hold-ups, guns, and murders. Jacques Benoit wrote the scenario of the film, which stars Luce Guilbeault, René Caron, Marcel Sabourin and J.-Léo Gagnon. **LA MAUDITE GALETTE** was produced by CINAK Ltée, with the participation of Carle-Lamy Ltée, Compagnie France Film, and the CFDC. Le Monde called **GALETTE** "perhaps the first authentic masterpiece of fiction from the cinema québécois. . . ."

Gilles Carle's **LES MALES** has had a good summer box-office in Paris. His latest film, **LA VRAIE NATURE DE BERNADETTE**, will open in four or five Paris theatres in late September.

Deny Héroux' **LES ARPENTS DE NEIGE**, an historical spectacular, will open in Québec for Christmas.

"New Cinema from Québec" was honored at London's National Film Theatre August 21st to 30th. Seven features were part of the show assembled by the Con-

seil québécois pour la diffusion du cinéma: **LA MAUDITE GALETTE**, **MON ONCLE ANTOINE**, **LES MALES**, **LES MAUDITS SAUVAGES**, **L'ACADIE**, **L'ACADIE**, **LE MEPRIS N'AURA QU'UN TEMPS**, and **UNE QUESTION DE VIE**.

In the program booklet of the National Film Theatre Ken Wlaschin wrote:

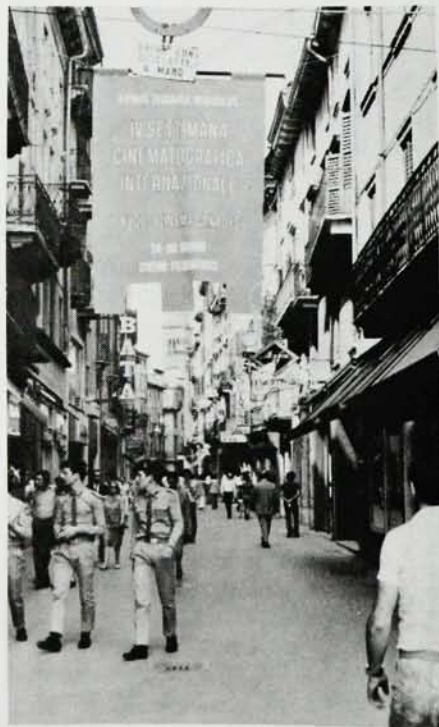
"French-Canadian films are virtually unknown in Britain despite the impact they have been making at international festivals during the past ten years. The Province of Québec, an island of French culture in the ocean of Anglo-Saxon North America, has virtually created a nationalistic cinema without a nation and has become one of the important centres of the new cinema movement. With a French speaking population of under five million, Québec now produces and supports over 20 feature films each year, few of which are commercially distributed in other parts of Canada or abroad. Made on low budgets and usually with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada and the Canadian Film Development Corporation, these films are 'local' in the best sense, pinpointing the lives, problems, concerns, history and development of French speaking Canada. This short introduction to the 'cinéma québécois' is therefore a particularly exciting occasion as it will enable English audiences to discover how a regional cinema, which Britain is sadly lacking, can develop into a major cultural force. The quality of these films, despite their small budgets, is very high indeed and directors like Gilles Carle and Claude Jutra are making films that deserve international recognition. This series includes the work of most of the established Québec directors (Carle, Jutra, Lefebvre, Brault, Perrault) as well as notable first films. It has been made possible by the assistance of the Office du Film du Québec, the Conseil québécois pour la diffusion du cinéma, the National Film Board of Canada, Faroun Films, Cinak, Les Ateliers audiovisuels du Québec and particularly Robert Daudelin and W.S. Jobbins."

The week of Canadian Films in Verona, Italy, labelled **IL NUOVO CINEMA CANADESE**, was very well attended and extensively covered by the Italian press (Milan, Rome, Turin, Verona). Many filmmakers introduced their films and discussed them with the public: Arthur Lamothe, Yves Leduc, Gilles Carle, Jean Chabot, Jacques Gagné, Robert Daudelin, Jean-Paul Vanasse and Gilles Marsolais participated in this important presentation.

George Kaczender is finishing the shooting of **U TURN**.

Jean-Claude Labrecque's **LES SMATTES** will be representing Canada at the International Festival **JOURNEE CINEMATOGRAPHIQUE** of Carthage, Tunisia, in late September. Labrecque will be attending. André Pâquet, formerly of Cinémathèque québécoise, will be on the jury.

MON ONCLE ANTOINE will be the official Québec entry in Mexico's **Muestra internacional de cine**, in November. The film is presently being subtitled in Span-





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ish by T.S.T. in Montréal.

The French Federation of Film Societies has shown all of Jean-Pierre Lefebvre's films (Nine features and one short) to its animators, from September 2nd to the 9th, in Marly-le-Roy, near Paris. Lefebvre was on hand to introduce every program, and to discuss his films, such as *LES MAUDITS SAUVAGES*, *JUSQU'AU COEUR*, *Q-BEC MY LOVE*, and *MON AMIE PIERRETTE*. This exhibition was organized jointly by the Federation of Film Societies and the Conseil québécois.

Lefebvre was also one of the québécois filmmakers who travelled to Toronto this summer (which is more unusual, than them going to Europe) to attend the screenings of their films during the festival of Canadian films at the Poor Alex. Gilles Carle, Claude Jutra, and Michel Brault were the others whose works (*LE VIOL D'UNE JEUNE FILLE DEUCE*, *A TOUT PRENDRE*, *MON ONCLE ANTOINE*, and *L'ACADIE*, *L'ACADIE*) were shown for one week to enthusiastic and predominantly young audiences at the Naked Came the Maple Leaf festival. During the course of their stay each was besieged by reporters and they all had very hectic schedules. The critical response was mixed, but audiences were

unanimous in their desire to see more Canadian and Québec films.

Gilles Carle is finishing editing on his new feature *LA MORT D'UN BUCHERON* (The Death of a Lumberjack), based on an actual incident in rural Québec in which a number of woodcutters lost their lives. He is very eager to continue shooting on *LES CORPS CELESTES* (Heavenly Bodies), which story is set in Kirkland Lake in 1939, and concerns seven prostitutes and a procurer, preparing a new brothel for its grand opening. Carle also got excited about the pulse of Toronto when he visited there during the summer, and expressed interest in shooting a film trying to capture that pulse.

André Théberge is also finishing editing on a new feature, with Yves Leduc at the National Film Board.

Pierre Perrault and Bernard Gosselin are shooting at James Bay. Also shooting are Larry Kent on *KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY* (KIT producing), Denis Héroux on *J'AI MON VOYAGE* (KIT producing), Jean Dansereau on *FLORALIE OU ESTU?* (Les Ateliers du cinéma québécois producing), and Jan Kadar on *LIES MY FATHER TOLD ME* (Pentacle VIII producing). ●

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