

# Dansereau wraps fictional pic in Quebec City

MONTREAL - Several low-budget features have been shot this year throughout Quebec: Jean-Pierre Lefebvre and Marguerite Duparc have each wrapped one in Bedford, Anne-Claire Poirier finished *La quarantaine* in St-Hyacinthe, while Yves Simoneau (*Les yeux rouges*) and Fernand Dansereau (*Les doux aveux*) have used Quebec City as the site of their films.

Dansereau, who won a Canadian Film Award several years ago as one of Canada's outstanding filmmakers, has completed *Les doux aveux*, a theatrical feature starring Marcel Sabourin and Hélène Loiselle. For Dansereau, known primarily for his work at the National Film Board in documentary, and his many labor films made in conjunction with

community groups, his film is a departure.

"It had been four years since I had directed a film. I began to work on an idea with the young people in the company, and slowly, a 'personage' began to grow and develop. It was an old woman, based on my grandmother, and we decided to go ahead and work on a scenario, putting older people and adolescents together." With obvious enthusiasm for the film, Dansereau received backing from the Institut Québécois du Cinéma and the Canadian Film Development Corp and found a single investor who was ready to put up the remaining \$88,000.

"We were limited by the \$368,000 budget, but the shoot was far from impossible. We shot it in 22 days, paid union

fees for a 23-member crew, and had four first-rate actors in leading roles, wrote music and the rest. I don't understand why filmmaking has got so expensive these days; we would have been very comfortable with a budget of \$500,000."

After years of making films tailored to the requirements of the NFB, or with groups, Dansereau eventually felt a certain freedom in dealing with fiction. "The documentary tradition runs deep, and Hélène Loiselle pointed out at the beginning of the shoot that I was simply asking her to play herself, not really to develop a character. We soon got free and began to use our imaginations in ways that were new for me. I hope that this film will communicate

(cont. on p. 7)

No. 80 - December 1981 - January 1982

**Cover:** *Desperate for his unemployment cheque, George Segal takes on the postman while The Neighbour's Irene Cara stands caught in the crossfire. For an In Progress report, see page 32. Photo: Bandy Munkacsi.*

**Editorial:** For a marriage of culture and industry ..... 23  
**Opinion:** Prepare to engage the enemy, by Malcolm Dean ..... 23  
**Letters** ..... 23

**CineMag Trade News** ..... 3  
 National Pay-TV proposals ..... 14-15  
 More from Les, by Les Wedman ..... 11  
 Shoot Alberta, by Linda Kupecek ..... 19  
 Production guide ..... 40-43  
 Box office grosses ..... 44-45

**Features**  
 The war within: Culture vs. industry, by Connie Tadros ..... 24  
 Out of the main stream, by David Clarke ..... 26-27  
 Abitibi summers and winters: André Blanchard, by Piers Handling ..... 28  
 Double trouble, by Judee Ganten ..... 31

**In Progress**  
 "The Neighbour": Dead dog leads to cat-and-mouse, by David Clarke ..... 32  
 "Death Bite": A mean appetite, by David Sharpe ..... 33

**Film Reviews**  
 Ralph Thomas's "Ticket to Heaven", by Christopher Lowry ..... 34  
 Claude Jutra's "Surfacing", by Florence Jacobowitz ..... 35  
 Harry Rasky's "Being Different", by Christopher Lowry ..... 36  
 Bill Reid's "Bill Lee: A profile of a pitcher", by Lois Siegel ..... 37  
 Gilles Blais' "Les adeptes", by Lois Pope ..... 37

**Short Film Reviews**  
 Bruce Glawson's "Michael, a Gay Son", by Barbara Halpern Martineau ..... 38  
 Derek May's "Off the Wall", by Merv Walker ..... 38  
 Mazur/Elkin/Lower's "The New Mayor", by John Brooke ..... 39  
 Linda Schuyler/Kit Hood's "The Kids of Degraasi St.", by John Brooke ..... 39

# CINEMA

C A N A D A

**Publisher:** Jean-Pierre Tadros. **Editors:** Connie Tadros, Jean-Pierre Tadros. **Associate Editor:** Teri Coburn. **General Manager:** Del Mehes (Toronto). **Staff reporter:** Bruce Malloch. **Researcher:** Yves Gagnon. **Columnists:** Linda Shapiro, Les Wedman, Linda Kupecek, J. Paul Costabile, George L. George. **Design:** Merv Walker. **Typesetting:** Concept Mediatexte Inc. **Subscription information:** One year (12 issues): individuals \$18. Companies and institutions \$24. Add \$5 postage for USA and overseas. Two years (24 issues): Individuals \$34. Companies and institutions \$40. Add \$10 postage for USA and overseas. First class (one year, 12 issues): Individuals \$30. Companies and institutions \$36. Overseas: individuals \$38. Companies and institutions \$44. Requests for replacement of missing issues will be honored for three months after the due date of the issue.

**Cinema Canada**, founded by the Canadian Society of Cinematographers, is published by the Cinema Canada Magazine Foundation. **President:** Jean-Pierre Tadros. **Vice-President:** George Csaba Koller. **Secretary-Treasurer:** Connie Tadros. **Directors:** George Campbell Miller. **Editorial information:** All manuscripts, drawings and photographs submitted must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. While the editors will take all reasonable care, they will not be held responsible for the loss of any such submissions. Opinions expressed within the magazine are those of the author and not necessarily those of the editors. **Cinema Canada** is indexed in the *Film Literature Index* (Albany), the *Canadian Periodical Index* (Ottawa) and the *International Index to Film Periodicals*. Member of the Canadian Periodical Publishers Association. No part of this magazine may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Cinema Canada Magazine Foundation is a non-profit organization. Canadian Charitable Organization no. 044-1998-2213. Published with the financial assistance of the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council. Second class mail registration no. 3081. ISSN 0009-7071

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