

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

CALGARY - Superman will soar again in southern Alberta when *Superman III* shoots on location from mid-August to the end of September. Dovemead Productions of London, England, plans to utilize downtown Calgary as Metropolis (with the help of the Calgary Film Development Office) and the town of High River as Smallville. The production office (manned by Les Kimber as production manager and Trudy Work as production secretary) opened April 26, and casting director Debbie McWilliams conducted interviews in Calgary and Vancouver the first week of May.

Also in the works is a reprise of *Chautauqua Girl*, the CBC drama special interrupted by last year's NABET strike. *Chautauqua Girl* will shoot in Heritage Park in Calgary, and in the town of Blackie, in August and September, with a number of Calgary actors in the cast.

Wendy Wacko's award-winning documentary feature, *Challenge: The Canadian Rockies*, has been sold in 21 countries. Now, the Jasper-based filmmaker has commenced work on two more films, a docudrama and a documentary, with an early 1983 release date projected.

The docudrama is based on the life of Canadian artist Doris McCarthy, and is being shot in London, Paris, the Alberta badlands and the Rockies. Richard Leiterman is director/cameraman, with Wacko as producer. Wacko is confident in the 'bankability' of the \$150,000 film. "Although I haven't fully financed it, I believe I can close the deal in the next few weeks."

The Wacko/Leiterman team's second project is a half-hour documentary special for television currently titled *The Great Rocky Mountain Relay Race*. This 180-mile relay race from Jasper to Banff is an annual event with a grand prize of an "outrageous sculpture". On

June 19-20, Leiterman will supervise four cameramen on the 48-hour shoot, while 99 international teams attempt to complete the race. Ambulances will cruise the course to assist the mixture of amateur and professional runners.

In May, the Alberta Film Censor Board announced changes in classification. The new classifications are: General (previously Family); Parental Guidance (previously Family with warning); Mature (previously Adult, or Adult, Not Suitable for Children); Under 14 Must Be Accompanied by Someone 18 or Over (previously Under 16 With Parent or Guardian) and Restricted Adult (which remains the same). Also, the distributors must now put all warnings on the advertisements.

The reason for the change, according to a member of the Alberta Film Censor Board, is that the classifications were too stiff, and now children are more mature, making the former bridge between Family and Adult too great.

Visitors for Viewings: Director Francis Mankiewicz came to Alberta for screenings of his acclaimed features, *Les bons débarras* and *Les beaux souvenirs*, at the NFB offices in Edmonton and Calgary... where, a few weeks later, director John Howe hosted a screening of his drama, *A Choice of Two*, yet another sample of his work since *Why Rock the Boat?* which starred Stuart Gillard... who, a few weeks later, was in Calgary for a sneak preview of *If You Could See What I Hear*, which Gillard scripted and co-produced.

Mankiewicz on Canadian film and tax shelters: "Film is a very difficult, very expensive, very dangerous business. You fail more times than you succeed, and failure implies a lot of money"...

"The Canadian Government must decide that Canadian culture is a priority, not only important, but essential to the survival of society..."

"The unfortunate thing is that the amounts of money spent here on cinema and the CBC are enormous... I don't understand

why, with all that money, we can't have a continuous, on-going program of film. A country of 20 million people should produce 15 or 20 feature films a year"...

Gillard on Canadian film and tax shelters: "The tax breaks have allowed a lot of people to

become producers who would be selling cars. Luckily, a few good films have now emerged, and the fly-by-nighters have gone... They came up here with carpetbags full of scripts... I was offered pictures... to stick my name on because I was a Canadian."

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Sefel skeds 6 romances for 2 crews

TORONTO - Calgary oil millionaire Joseph Sefel, who financed the 1980 feature film *The Kidnapping of the President*, will invest close to \$10 million in six 90-minute romance-themed productions to be filmed in Toronto starting August 9.

Sefel's newly-created production company, Genesis International Productions, plans to hire two complete crews so it can shoot the six films in groups of two over three five-week periods, according to Genesis project director Annette Cohen.

The production has been working on script development with such writers as Paul Got-

lieb, Laura Phillips, David Young, Carol Bolt, and Steve Hayes, honing the romance story formula Genesis has created for these films, "We're definitely trying to incorporate what we see as the features of the prose romances into stories with true film grammar, which means action and true character development. We've found the romance line alone does not make a satisfying film," said Cohen. None of the six scripts have been titled yet.

No distribution deal has been arranged for the six films by Genesis because Sefel plans to handle the negotiations himself, according to Cohen.