

## SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

*Running Brave*, the \$8 million feature on the life of Indian athlete Billy Mills, completed its last lap in Edmonton at the end of October. Financed by the Ermineskin band of Hobbema, Alberta, the film starred Robby Benson and was directed by Don Shebib (who traded 'heartaches' for 'ankle-ache' and crutches, courtesy of a football folly).

The ten-week shoot utilized Commonwealth Stadium and Clark Stadium in Edmonton, as well as the town of Wayne in the Drumheller Valley. "The Province of Alberta is magnificent," said producer Ira Englander of Englander Productions (Los Angeles). "I received more help here than I ever could have expected." Crew was drawn from Alberta, Vancouver and Toronto, ditto the cast, with Robby Benson and four U.S. actors imported.

Production manager Don Buchsbaum calls *Running Brave* "truly an intra-Canadian movie in terms of crew," and points with satisfaction to the "breakthrough marriage of Quebec and Ontario" (referring to DOP François Protat and director Don Shebib).

"We spent more money in Alberta than *Superman* did," claims Buchsbaum. "We were a much greater presence in Alberta. *And*," he emphasizes, "we were a *Canadian* presence."

Nick Bakyta of Tinsel Media was elected president of AMPIA (the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association) at the Annual meeting held October 23rd at the Château Lacombe in Edmonton. For the first time, four of the seven elected directors are based in Calgary. AMPIA began as an Edmonton-based producers' organization, then evolved into a province-wide group with representatives from all aspects of the industry, and, a few years ago, sprouted a Calgary chapter. Outgoing president Arvi Liimatainen commented on the year's accomplishments and frustrations, and accepted a plaque of

### Alta ACTRA execs

CALGARY - The Southern Alberta Branch of ACTRA elected a new Council at its annual general meeting on Oct. 13. Council members are: President: Maureen Thomas (performer); Vice-President: Cayt McGuire (writer); Secretary: Sharon Pollock (writer); Treasurer: Tom Keenan (writer-broadcaster); Member at Large: Valerie Pearson (performer); Member at Large: Gordon Signer (performer); Past President: Linda Kupecek (performer); and Jack Goth continues to serve as national director.

appreciation labelled "Don't even *think* about running again."

A presentation by the AMPDC (Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation) in Edmonton on October 23rd clarified many of the corporation's guidelines and policies for the thirty AMPIA representatives in attendance.

Said corporation president Lorne MacPherson of the funding agency, "The Corporation is essentially a bank, not in the grant business, but in the loan business." The loans (available for up to 60% of the pre-production budget) must be paid back the first day of principal photography. "The object of the Corporation is to develop the motion picture industry in Alberta," MacPherson said, explaining the requirement that the producer be a resident of Alberta. That requirement may be waived, but only if it is demonstrated that the project will be "of significant benefit to Albertans." These key words will be defined by "the Alberta Formula," including a list of positions to be filled by Albertans, less rigid than the point system, but still protective. At press time, three loans have been made, with two more approved.

William Marsden, Director of the Film Industry Development Office of Alberta Economic Development, clarified the provincial government's support on three levels: financial, educational and marketing, including the placement of part-time marketing agents in Los Angeles and London.

Advisory Board member Ron Brown (of Century II) outlined the reasons for the establishment of the AMPDC: a general feeling of a lack of recognition of western Canadians from the CFDC, and diminished opportunities for filmmakers as public agency production began to take over the private sector turf.

Three million dollars have been made available through the provincial government, but at this point, it is not known if the funding will be replenishable. Corporation Board member Ken Chapman stated, "The Alberta Formula is one of the best ways to have that three million dollars act as a catalyst."

When questioned about the reasoning behind the establishment of the offices in Canmore (near Banff) Marsden explained the Alberta government's policy of decentralization, and added, "When I was (a producer) looking for money, I would go all the way to Toronto and Montreal, and come back without a goddamned cent. At least, when you go to Canmore, you'll find

money." Famous Players District Manager Brian Holberton reports the acquisition of four new theatres in Edmonton, which will bring the total in the chain in Alberta to forty-two... Kicking Horse Productions is hoping to change tempo with a \$2 million

feature on Doug and the Slugs, a Vancouver-based rock and roll band... Grace Gilroy is production manager on *Bush Pilot*, a three-segment series produced by Larry Shorter (ex-ACCESS chief) and CFRN Television... *Aeromedical Transportation Part II*, written and

produced by Peter D. Marshall for ACCESS Alberta has won two awards: first place in its category at the John Muir Medical Film Festival in California, and second place in its category at last year's international Health Sciences Communication Association.



## CANADIAN FILM ASSOCIATION TELEVISION ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE CINÉMA-TÉLÉVISION

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### TENTH ANNUAL CFTA AWARDS

CATEGORY	TITLE	PRODUCTION COMPANY
Animation	Pig Bird	Derek Mazur Productions, Winnipeg
A/V Portable	The Inuit Today	Canada Mortgage & Housing, Ottawa
A/V Non-Portable	Service for Peace-Worldwide	Ad-Venture Sight & Sound, Toronto
Commercial	Algonquin	Rabko Productions, Toronto
Documentary - under 30 Minutes	The Battle of Beech Hall	Cinemagic, Toronto
Documentary - over 30 Minutes	Chambers: Tracks and Gestures	Atlantis Films, Toronto
Instructional/Educational	The Kids' Case Against Vandalism	Documentary Productions, Toronto
Sales Promotion and Public Relations	Precision By The Ton	The Shooters Film Company, Toronto
TV Drama - under 30 minutes	David	Atlantis Films, Toronto
TV drama - over 30 minutes	Introducing Janet	Cine Flics, Toronto
TV Variety - under 30 minutes	Bizarre	Shiral Productions/CTV, Toronto
TV Variety - over 30 minutes	Billy Bishop	Primedia Productions/B.B.C., Toronto
First Production	Marathon: The Ultimate Challenge	Marathon Film Productions, Burnaby
<b>Best overall</b>	<b>Challenge - The Canadian Rockies</b>	<b>W. Wacko Productions, Jasper</b>