



Leon Johnson



Ian Elkin

The big news for us has been the approval of a grant for \$30,000 for the Winnipeg Film Group by the Canada Council. \$10,000 is specifically earmarked for production. We also have received assistance from the Province of Manitoba by means of a \$10,000 grant. In this case \$5,000 was set aside for production. No news as yet on assistance from either the NFB or CBC.

In the meantime many of our members are busily working away at various assignments. Five of our animators including Brad Caslor and Richard Condie are preparing work for the CBC's *Sesame Street* program, and Leon and Joanne Johnson are in the midst of doing five commercials for Yamaha music.

Ian Elkin, Bob Lower and Richard Stringer, commonly known as Shortgrass Films, are off to Saskatchewan where they are filming the harvest. This footage will be incorporated into a film they are doing for Co-op Implements of Winnipeg.

A Better Choice is the name of a documentary presently editing. The film for the Manitoba Department of Industry and Commerce outlines the NDP's "stay-option" to Manitobans. The film was directed by Vesna Cherniack and is now under the scissors of David Cherniack.

Production

In terms of production, the next big project is Leonard Yakir's, *The Mourning Suit*. Shooting commences September 30 in Winnipeg. It was formerly known as *The Mourners*. The film received a CFDC low-budget go-ahead recently. In addition local support has come from the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Theatre Centre. MTC has been most helpful in an advisory capacity on the March Films Ltd. production.

The film also marks the first time a fiction feature has been shot in Winnipeg. Producer/director Leonard Yakir hopes to capture the city's flavor in his contemporary drama set in the famous garment district. Alan Moyle (*Montreal Main*) heads the cast as a young man who has returned from the East to rebuild his life. Instead, he finds himself caught between two generations in a unique prison. Brenda Donahue, Henry Gamer and Marcia Diamond round out the cast.

The story, written by Yakir and Joe Wiesenfeld, is on a five-week shooting schedule and should be ready for release in Spring 1975. Associate Producer is Paul Lienburd and Production Supervisor is Peter O'Brian. The rest of the crew includes Henry Fiks, whose fine

work as Director of Photography can be seen on *Exploding Dreams*, Doug Ganton on sound, Art Direction by Tony Hall, assisted by Brian McInnes and First Assistant Director chores taken up by John Stoneman, a new arrival from England.

Winnipeg was the scene last month of other film activities. At the annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Cine-Amateurs held in the city, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Len Evans, talked about the need for a quota on Canadian films in our theatres. He suggested an initial quota of 10-15%. Reaction was fast and furious. Paul Morton of Odeon-Morton theatres claimed quota would mean the end of the Canadian Film Industry. However, Peter Pearson of the CCFM and Marty Bochner of the Canadian Distributors Association were more optimistic. The Film Group's release was quick to note that 5% of screen time in the past year was devoted to Canadian films. This encompassed only twelve films. Missing from Winnipeg screens were *Between Friends*, Réjeanne Padovani, and *U-Turn* among others.

Industry and Commerce are presently trying to encourage other provinces to think quota. As well, we expect serious discussions will take place shortly on a national level. □

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