

AMPIA fetes local film heroes with awards

EDMONTON - The 10th Annual Alberta Film and Television Awards were held Feb. 18 in Edmonton's new Convention Centre. The Awards, organized by AMPIA (the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association) capped the week of Symposium '84: Local Heroes.

For the first time in the history of the Awards, they were televised live on CBC with province-wide coverage. (Early reports from CBC estimate roughly 100,000 viewers in Alberta, reports AMPIA Awards Chairman Lyn Miller.) Despite tightened 1983 purse-strings, an amazing 65 entries surfaced for the competition, and about 300 people attended the ceremonies.

Master of ceremonies Fred Keating glided gracefully through the evening. The jury consisted of Jerry Ezekiel (chairman) program director of the Banff Television Festival; John Kennedy, head of television drama, CBC; Dave Billington, entertainment columnist and reviewer, The Edmonton Sun; David Scorgie, film and literary arts, Alberta Culture; and Fred Haeseker, film critic, The Calgary Herald.

The general feeling appears to be that Alberta is on the threshold of a boom in production activity, with numerous projects in development, and more production in evidence from the CTV outlet in Calgary, CFCN.

Jury member Haeseker was particularly impressed with *Going Back* (Alberta Government Audio-Visual Services) which took awards for Best Motivational, Best Dramatic

Script, and Best Actor. "As a television half-hour, it compared really favorably to the usual standard of TV Sitcom and dramas out of Hollywood. Even as a film with a specific message, it worked really well as entertainment," he commented.

Linda Kupecek ●

ALBERTA FILM AND TELEVISION AWARDS

Aspen Parklands

- *Best Film of Festival*
- producer, David Flux
for ACCESS

Going Back

- *Best Motivational*
- producer, Michael Hamm
for Alberta Government Audio-Visual Services

From Bears to Bartok

- *Best Documentary*
- NFB Northwest Studio
(Anne Wheeler, Producer;
Reevan Dolgoy, director)

Old Prejudices,

New Directions
- *Best Educational Film*
- University of Calgary
Communications Media Dept.

Under the Sun

- *Best Promotional Film*
- Infield Productions
(David Banigan, Producer)

Superswitch

- *Best Commercial*
- Frame 30 Productions for
Edmonton Telephones

Burn Victim

- *Best News and Public Affairs*
- CBC Edmonton

The Pro Band Presents

- *Big Band Vocal*
- *Best Musical Variety*
- CFCN Television

Earl of Sandwich

- *Best Short or Vignette*
- Alberta Agriculture
Aspen Parklands
- *Best Wildlife*
- David Flux, producer,
for ACCESS

Desire

- *Special Jury Award for
Dramatic Short*
- producer Wendy Hill-Tout
with the Calgary Society of
Independent Film-Makers

There was no award in the entertainment feature category, as there was only one entry, CFCN's *Double Play*.

CRAFT AWARDS

Best Director

David Flux

Aspen Parklands

Best Dramatic Script

Warren Graves

Going Back

Best Non-Dramatic Script

Fred Stenson

Aspen Parklands

Best Actor

Wilf Rowe

Going Back

Best Actress

Maureen Thomas

Double Play

Best Sound Recording

CBC Edmonton

Calgary Christmas Pops

Best Editing

Michel Lalonde

Beyond the Frontier

Best Music

Bob Derkach

Under the Sun

Best Cinematography

Andrew Jaremko

Desire

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

Edmonton was the setting for several major film events from Feb. 14-18th: Symposium '84, Local Heroes; the Alberta Film Colloquium; and the 10th Annual Alberta Film and Television Awards. (See other stories).

The Colloquium, coordinated by Grace Gilroy (and presented by the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation) gave the many components of the Alberta film community an opportunity to air their views and aims for the future. Intended as an open dialogue on the state of the art, the Colloquium attracted national and provincial representatives from IATSE, Teamsters, Stunts Canada, ACTRA, AMPIA, DGC, and a number of government agencies, including CFDC (represented by Bob Linnell).

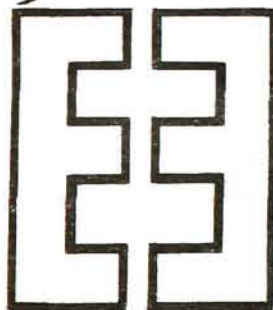
"The most important thing was that we got everybody together and that a dialogue did begin," says Gilroy. "People want to see an improvement in the industry in terms of cooperation, so that more companies are encouraged to come and shoot in Alberta."

The meeting, with volatile factions of the industry brought together under one roof, proved both eventful and productive. A liaison committee, similar to that already in operation in B.C., will be established to ensure a cooperative relationship with out-of-province companies.

A guest at the meeting was Michael Harris, who reps the Australian Film Commission in Los Angeles.

One of the producers (and DGC member) attending the Colloquium was Doug MacLeod, of Calgary-based Bradshaw MacLeod and Associates. MacLeod, who served as location manager on *Superman III* and *Finders Keepers*, has a string of credits, including a shared feature film script credit (*Ghostkeeper*) and the production of two dramatic films for PBS in the U.S. "We're currently in the process of developing a series of film and television projects, primarily for network broadcast in this country with a view to syndication in world markets," says MacLeod, who has also worked on scores of national and international commercials... Bette Chadwick of the Other Agency Casting Ltd. has completed three projects for Atlantis Films: *John Cat*, *One's a Heifer*, and *Cages*... Deadline for entries for the Banff Television Festival is Apr. 1. This year the Festival has found an elegant new home, the Banff Springs Hotel, and a new springtime date, May 20-26. For more information, write the Banff Television Festival, Box 1020, Banff, Alberta TOL 0C0 or call (403) 762-6400... Karen Laurence of the CFDC addressed Alberta filmmakers in visits to Calgary and Edmonton in February. The Canadian Broadcast Program Development Fund has not been deluged with entries from Alberta, and Laurence's visit may help remedy that... AMPIA, aware of waning membership due to penny-counting times, has reduced its membership fees. Active membership is now \$200, and associate membership is now \$50, while corporate affiliate will remain the same... The Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers recently hosted two screenings: *Desire* an award-winning dramatic short by Wendy Hill-Tout, and an evening of films by Vancouver film artist David Rimmer... Audiences at a showing of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at the Plaza Theatre in February were treated to a late-night dialogue with Sandy Dennis (starring in *84 Charing Cross Road* at the Stage West Dinner Theatre). Dennis was accompanied by actor Eric Roberts (*Star 80*)... While some major projects have skated away for the moment, a low-budget feature, *Snowflake Spring* is hoping to come down in Calgary in April.

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Wars rage on in Edmonton in 3rd week

EDMONTON - Spectrafilm's release *The Wars* has grossed \$11,700 in its third week since opening on one screen Jan. 20.