

FRONTS WEST

by Kathryn Allison

Call me British Columbian, but life in Vancouver this summer has been insufferably cheerful. Strangers no longer start desultory conversations about the weather, instead, "What have you seen at Expo?" gets tongues wagging. As I wander down Robson Street past the money exchange booths and omnipresent souvenir shops, I'm constantly tempted to join with David Letterman in advising the smiling, brightly clad tourists in front of me to "Get out of town. Go away. Go home, already."

But there's a comforting side to all this Expo blandness. Every night at 10:30 sharp there are fireworks and from my downtown apartment the celebratory explosions seem eerily like a space-age battle. Silent laser rays flash straight up into the night sky in huge white spikes, then come the thumping and cracking of the traditional fireworks. Every night people scream with delight at the show, as if applauding the efforts of malevolent aliens to wipe us all out.

It's not such a weird idea – an undercurrent of militarism and violent chaos hovers above our heads every time a visiting dignitary comes to the fair, accompanied by hordes of alert helicopters. (Film has changed our lives – you just don't hear helicopters the same way after seeing *Apocalypse Now*.) So I ponder the effects this gigantic adult day-care centre has had on our usual wealth of U.S. production this year. What on earth will we be able to brag about back east if we don't outdo them hosting U.S. run-away production?

But a little research quiets my fears, and the B.C. Film Commission's Brent Clackson assures me that the roster is full this summer, and that all crews are working until early September. While Tripwire and Zorah Productions' *Frederick* have both been postponed for now, lots of projects are in pre-production. These include *Roxanne* for Columbia Pictures, Mike Rachmil producer, Fred Skapase director, and starring Steve Martin; 13 new episodes of the *Hitchhiker* series for HBO; *House-keeping*, Bill Forsyth's feature for Cannon Films, starring Diane Keaton; 26 new episodes of *Danger Bay*; *Astronaut and Son*, a TV movie for Disney; *Betrayal of Trust* for CBS; and *Malone*, an Orion Pictures feature directed by Hardy Cokliss and starring Burt Reynolds. In Victoria, Karen Allen is starring in *Backfire*, an

ITC Production directed by Gilbert Cates.

As far as real people (read Western Canadian) and jobs go, Wayne Sterloff at Telefilm has a new assistant. Maria Falcone replaces Alyson Drysdale, who left last spring. Falcone used to be the scheduling coordinator for Post-Haste Video,

and before that was involved in the production end of things in Alberta.

Patricia Mahon, who worked for Superchannel's Edmonton office for almost four years as script consultant and manager of Creative Development, has relocated to the Vancouver office. Her new title is Creative Development Representative, and translates that into action by representing B.C. producers and their projects to Superchannel and vice versa. According to Mahon, there are

four B.C. projects in active development – one TV series and three features, all of which are in the early stages of script development. So far, she's received an average of 10 to 12 proposals per month, and is looking forward to more: "I want to get to know the producers here – I'll meet with anybody who comes through the door." John Taylor, head of Vancouver's NFB Production arm, is moving to Toronto to act as head of the Ontario Centre (English program).

Taylor says that he's intrigued with the Board's proposed new structure (integrating production and distribution) and is excited about having a hand in how it all unfolds. The Vancouver Board offices will be consolidated by next spring in a new office space closer to the Pacific Cine Centre, whose theatre the Board will make use of.

The NFB Vancouver production *Feeling Yes, Feeling No* (director, Mo Simpson) has re-

L'Office national du film du Canada au 10^e Festival des films du monde de Montréal
The National Film Board of Canada at the 10th Montreal World Film Festival

Compétition officielle / Official competition

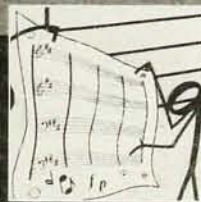


La Symphonie fantastique (La Marche au supplice)
Hector Berlioz
Réalisateur/Director: Guy Simoneau
Coproducteur/Co-producer: Spectel Vidéo



Kaspar
Réalisateur/Director: Stefan Anastasiu

Cinéma d'aujourd'hui et de demain / Cinema of today and tomorrow



Concerto Grosso Modo
Réalisateur/Director: François Aubry



Nouvelle Mémoire/ Beyond Memory
Réalisatrice/Director: Louise Lamarre



Every Dog's Guide to Complete Home Safety
Réalisateur/Director: Les Drew



Richard Cardinal: Cry from the Diary of a Metis Child
Réalisatrice/Director: Alanis Obomsawin



La Vieille Dame
Réalisateur/Director: Gilles Blais



Sitting in Limbo
Réalisateur/Director: John N. Smith



L'Homme à la traîne
Réalisateur/Director: Jean Beaudin



The Champions, Part 3 The Final Battle
Réalisateur/Director: Donald Brittain
Coproducteur/Co-producer: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Cinéma et paix / Cinema and peace



La Bombe en bonus
Coréalisatrices/Co-directors: Audrey Schirmer et/and Claire Nadon

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Suite 115, Hôtel Méridien



Office national du film du Canada

National Film Board of Canada

cently been named the Board's all-time bestseller (bookings, video rentals and print sales). Does the Vancouver office get any awards? "We don't even get any royalties!" they confess.

Debbie Jansen, office co-ordinator for the BCFA, has taken on new part-time re-

sponsibilities as manager of the Vancouver office of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. The Academy had been planning for some time to open a Vancouver office, and announced Jansen's appointment at the Vancouver Film Festival's Trade Forum. Jansen will implement membership campaigns and ac-

tivities, organize special events such as screenings for the Genies and the Geminis, and provide information about Academy programs such as the new national apprenticeship training program.

Another baby step in the right direction has been taken by

the provincial government which recently instructed the B.C. Development Corporation to seek proposals for the lease and operation of the Dominion Bridge "Effects Stage" (Burnaby Film Production Centre is another new name for the old warehouse that, despite its shabby condition, has housed a dozen major feature shoots in

the past few years). Over forty proposals were submitted in the first two weeks after the call, mostly by members of the construction industry. Apparently, a misconception that the provincial government was going to build a Land of Oz movie studio got going (Whoever gets these rumours started?) and created all kinds of inflated interest. If the B.C.D.C. gets a proposal that looks kosher (and the service sector of the film industry has formed a coalition and is submitting one together) they'll put in \$2 to \$3 million dollars for renovations on the building as part of Phase I of its development. Future development would be up to the private industry. John Erickson, manager of Special Projects at B.C.D.C. and in charge of the film industry facilities at Dominion Bridge, has said that proposals will be evaluated according to standard criteria such as financing and management strategies, ability to market the facility in Canada and North America, and proposed methods of operating the facility. "Our goal is to keep the facility full," says Erickson. Once an operator is chosen, renovations could start as early as this fall. Burnaby Mayor Lewarne commented at a press conference announcing the proposal call, "I feel like we won the Academy Award for best film location in Canada."

Still no word on what the provincial government plans to do about a film policy. The Board of Directors of the BCFA submitted their requested outline, but don't expect any action until a new Sacred leader is chosen.

DesRoches on loan to government, Delaney to v. p. post

OTTAWA — Pierre DesRoches, former vice-president of French Television with the Société Radio-Canada has been appointed to the position of Network Head, Cultural and Communications Industries. DesRoches, who remains on staff at the CBC, will lend his services to the Government of Canada in preparation for the second Francophone summit which will be held in Canada in 1987.

Franklin Delaney has been appointed to the position of vice-president of French Television, effective August 1, 1986. Both appointments were announced in July by CBC President Pierre Juneau. The DesRoches appointment was made by Monique Landry, Minister of State for External Affairs and Flora MacDonald, Minister of Communications.

MULTIPLE CHOICE IN TORONTO

Complete the following by choosing the most appropriate statement.

I'm shooting my next production in Toronto because

- a. Toronto's Film Liaison provides a comprehensive service that is fast, efficient and free
- b. Toronto is the third-largest film and video production centre in North America
- c. Toronto's locations adapt to time and place
- d. all of the above

For the correct answer and a lot more, contact:

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