

SPECIAL EVENTS

CANADIAN FILM AWARDS 1975 PREVIEW

After a one-year hiatus, the Canadian Film Awards will take place this fall at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This year's expanded format will include over sixty hours of screenings, all open to the public, running from Tuesday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. until late Sunday, October 11. The Etrog Awards will be presented on Sunday evening, October 12. This year's awards ceremony will not be telecast.

Admission for a full day's attendance has been set at \$3.00. A Festival Passport, good for all five days can be purchased for \$10.00. Tickets and passports are available from the Shaw Festival box office.

Chairman of this year's Film Awards is writer and ACTRA administrator Jack Gray. Gerald Prately, head of the Ontario Film Institute and noted Toronto film critic and broadcaster has been appointed Chairman of the International Jury.

Because there were no Canadian Film Awards in 1974, film produced or released over the two-year period from September 1, 1973 to August 31, 1975, have been admitted to competition. As a result, an unprecedented number of entries has been received in all categories (291). Other contributing factors are the addition of a new category for experimental films, and the elimination of the entry fee for films in competition. This year's awards are open to all Canadian films which have been produced, dubbed or sub-titled in English.

Financial support for this year's Awards has come from both government and private industry sources. The Secretary of State's Festivals Office, The Ontario Arts Council, The Canadian Film Development Corporation and the National Film Board have all provided assistance, as have the exhibitors' and distributors' associations within the industry.

The basic theme of the Festival is Retrospective of Canadian film. Half of the Festival will be devoted to jury screenings (open to the public) of films in competition, the other half to a nostalgic look backward at the films of the past made by or about Canada.

Each day's programme will begin with screenings of non-feature films in competition, from 10 am to 12 noon. From noon to 3 there will be a Retrospective of Canadian Film, and from 3 to 5, the programme returns to screenings of non-feature films in competition. The expatriate Canadian directors' films will be presented from 5 to 6:30. The 6:30 to 7:30 period each evening will be a "Meet the Filmmaker" Forum, with guests such as Norman Jewison, Ted Kotcheff, Colin Low, Pierre Berton and Peter Pearson.

Because all films submitted to the Film Awards must pass a pre-selection process before being entered in competition, specific titles of films in competition are not available at press time. However, many out of competition films will be included in the week-long Festival in the Retrospective of Canadian Film and Films by Expatriate Canadian Directors categories. The Retrospective will include films from the NFB, early Canadian films, Hollywood movies made in Canada, and films from Quebec. The NFB films will run every afternoon, and will begin with archival prints of some of the early war propaganda films and progress through to the films from the recent Challenge for Change programme. The NFB portion of the Retrospective will be followed each afternoon by a feature film which presents a different aspect of Canada and its movies (e.g., **The Viking, Bingo, North West Mounted Police, Il était une fois dans l'est**).

Saturday afternoon will wind up the Retrospective with two outstanding documentaries, **Back-Lot Canadiana** produced by the CBC and **Dreamland**, by the NFB, which recount the early years of the Canadian film industry and some of the problems - political and practical - which have plagued the industry's development.

The expatriate Canadian Directors series will include such titles as **The Ipress File, Outback, Georgy Girl, The Americanization of Emily, and Fiddler on the Roof**.

Each evening throughout the Festival week, two feature films in com-

petition will be shown. The International Jury will be judging the films presented during these screenings and from them will select the Best Feature Film, Best Director, Best Performance by an Actor, Best Performance by an Actress, and Best Screenplay, among others. The following feature films have been entered (listed alphabetically):

And I Love You Dearly, The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz, Black Christmas, Child Under a Leaf, The Hard Part Begins, The Heatwave Lasted Four Days, The Inbreaker, Lions for Breakfast, Mahoney's Last Stand, Me, Monkeys in the Attic, Montreal Main, The Mourning Suit, My Pleasure is My Business, 125 Rooms of Comfort, Les Ordres, The Parasite Murders, A Quiet Day in Belfast, Recommendation for Mercy, Sally Fieldgood & Co, Sudden Fury, The Supreme Kid, Why Rock the Boat?, Wolfpen Principle.

Morning and afternoon screenings of films in competition will include films in the following categories: Documentary Film, Theatrical Short Film, Television Drama Film, Animation Film, and Experimental Film.

Some special features of the Festival are a Lobby display of the work of Sorel Etrog, designer of the Award statuette, and special exhibitions of Canadian film magazines and books.

Sandra Gathercole, Director of the 75 Awards, hopes that this year's Festival will give people a chance to take a look at Canada and its movies through the years. She says "We are, in Canada, a movie going people. In fact, Canada is the biggest customer in the world for Hollywood movies and Toronto has the largest per capita film attendance of any city in North America. But... we usually don't have a chance to see our own movies. The week of October 7 - 12 will be a chance to remedy that... We should get to know our own movies after all. And the big bonus is the setting in Niagara-on-the-Lake and a chance to meet and talk to the filmmakers and jury." □