

Showing our shorts

Toon Cat Meets Fish Called Wanda Dept. : With three major awards from Zagreb, Winnipeg animator Cordell Barker's seven-minute *The Cat Came Back* is warming-up the crowds nationally for the new MGM release of *A Fish Called Wanda*. Over three years in the making, Barker's film was produced through The National Film Board and boasts a coproducing credit from Oscar-nominated Richard Condie. Audience-reaction at Winnipeg's Polo Park Cinema has been extremely positive. Theatre management reports that guffaws and applause are common occurrences during the seven minutes preceding the John Cleese comedy that *Cat* has been paired with. Kudos are certainly in order for Famous Players for bringing back a little showmanship into their presentation by programming a short that not only provides a little something extra for the moviegoers' six-and-a-half bucks, but more-than-adequately warms-up the audience for the lunacy that follows in *A Fish Called Wanda*. Meanwhile, Cineplex-Odeon continues to draw razberries as opposed to applause for screening annoying Dentyne commercials, etc. Get the hint, Garth? Quality Canadian shorts are the answer.

Sask-Touring Dept. : Saskatchewan Film Pool's Nora Gardner reports that moolah is now in place for a Western Canadian mega-tour of Sask indie-product. Approximately \$10,000 will be shelled-out to flog *Wheat Soup* and some selected shorts in 10 cities. Locales include Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Whitehorse. Yet to be confirmed is whether the same package will actually tour Saskatchewan.

Acquisitions Dept. : The newly-formed Alberta Releasing has picked-up four indie Manitoba titles for worldwide television distribution. Pics are West End Productions' *Niagara Falls*, Winnipeg Film Group Productions' *The Washing Machine*, John Kozak's *The Celestial Matter* and Jeff McKay's *A Game of Death*. In other acquisitions, Ottawa's National Archives will be securing the following Manitoba titles; McKay's *A Game of Death*, Guy Maddin's *The Dead Father* and *Tales From the Gimli Hospital* and Lorne Bailey's *The Milkman Cometh*. The happiest news comes from Video Pool's Alex Poruchnyk, whose feature-length video production *To Whom It May Concern* was purchased by the New York Museum of Modern Art.

Festival Fever Dept. : In addition to the successful screening at Yorkton, Lorne Bailey's black comedy *The Milkman Cometh* will also be seen during the Toronto Festival of Festivals and the Vancouver International Film Festival. John Kozak's 16-minute experimental drama *Running Time* will also unspool at Toronto. Guy Maddin's *Tales From the Gimli Hospital* will continue its cross-country gross-out during Montreal's World Film Festival and has been invited to the Vancouver International Film Festival. Also, Telefilm's Festival Office just announced that Maddin's 72-minute feature has been selected for competition in Mannheim. French and German versioning is currently underway.

Plenty Premieres Dept. : Greg Hanec's 102-minute feature *Tunes A Plenty*, received a gala world premiere in Winnipeg on August 18. Three-and-a-half years in the making, *Tunes* is the second feature for Hanec, whose first film, *Downtime*, was screened at the Berlin Film Festival in 1985. Hanec is currently developing a new feature; the Capra-styled comedy-drama is entitled *Until It Happens Twice*.

Paizs Update Dept. : John Paizs' 80-minute comedy *Crimewave*, has finally been released theatrically by Norstar in spite of the fact that it's already been screened by Superchannel/First Choice and was released last fall on homevideo. Theatrical engagements so far include Winnipeg's Cinema 3, Victoria's Cinecenta Films and Kingston's Princess-Court. Paizs will also be the subject of two tribute/symposiums. The first will be in Boston during October and then at Regina's Dunlop Gallery in January. Paizs is currently developing a new feature, a psychological thriller - perhaps, we suspect - in the Hitchcock vein.

Sub-Zero Manitoba Subs For Sub-Zero Siberia Dept. : Alana Langelotz, Locations officer for the Canada-Manitoba Cultural Industries Development Office (CIDO) reports that she's just returned from a recent location scout for Salt Lake City-based Christenson Creative Films. CCF's upcoming *MIG-Pilot* is price-tagged at \$15 million. The true-life action pic, to be released by TriStar, deals with the life story of Soviet defector, Lt. Victor Belenko and requires locales that can sub for the Soviet Union. Langelotz zeroed-in on Gimli's airforce base and Manitoba's Whiteshell area. Belenko himself is apparently pleased with the videotapes and photographs that CIDO has provided. In particular, he's reported to Langelotz that the Whiteshell bears a striking resemblance to Southern Siberia. Belenko will visit Manitoba to see for himself whether or not the pic can be shot here. Langelotz reports that location-scouting is no longer just building in Manitoba, but "blooming", "We're getting at least one script a week," she said.

Rock Video's As Film Art Dept. : Tom Sparling, president of Winnipeg's Rotifer Records, has signed an agreement with the Winnipeg Film Group to distribute a Manitoba-produced rock video. The video, entitled "Shot With Our Own Guns" received a major chunk of its funding through CIDO's

music industry support program and represents the efforts of a Winnipeg band called The Cheer. The video has already been screened on Much Music and will be touring non-theatrically as a warm-up short to Greg Hanec's music-oriented feature *Tunes A Plenty*.

Schizophrenic Cinema Dept. : M. B. Duggan's 23-minute drama *Mike The Movie*, is currently in post-production. The \$60,000,00 pic takes a realistic look at the surrealistic life of a young schizophrenic. Duggan, a social-worker-turned-filmmaker, spent a few pre-production weeks acquainting the cast with the ins and outs of schizophrenia and the social programmes presiding over them. The film will be released in January.


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