

## DGC takes on the CBC

TORONTO – The Director Guild of Canada is refusing to sign new contracts with the CBC (English) television. The guild, which represents about 1,700 film and television directors as well as other production craftspeople, will honour existing contracts but has decided to withhold any future member services from the CBC until the network recognizes Directors' Guild of Canada contracts.

The decision follows in the wake of the network's decision to hire a U.S. director to shoot two pilots in Toronto. The guild claims that the CBC signed a DGA contract for the services of Jack Shea and thereby accepted the principal of residuals for directors. Although the CBC traditionally uses Canadian guild members to direct most of the network's variety and drama programs, it has never signed their master contract, which would give the directors assorted residuals, pension and other benefits.

"This protest is not anti-American at all," said guild member Bob Barclay, chairman of the Action Committee, "Our best allies at this moment are the DGA. This has nothing to do with an American director. This has to do with the fact that the CBC has denied recognition to Canadians that they are prepared to give Americans."

DGC members have picketed the CBC twice and Barclay calls the corporation's actions "a slap in the face to all those who have supported it in the past." However, CBC's spokesman Tom Curzon told *Cinema Canada* that they don't "perceive ourselves as being unfair. The CBC position is, as stated with the first picket line sent up, we don't have an agreement with the DGA or the DGC. We are perfectly satisfied with the agreement we made with Mr. Shea within the collective bargaining agreement we have with the ATPD. The decision to hire Mr. Shea was taken when they looked at the list of directors perhaps qualified to do the job, but were unavailable."

Kathy Viner, executive director of the CBC in-house collective bargaining unit, the Association of Television Producers and Directors, confirms that Shea did not get residuals. "Mr. Shea was contracted under our collective agreement that is used for producers and directors," she said. "It's a specific service freelance contract. A standard contract that does not contain residuals."

However, Curzon did admit that, "the DGA asked for and received a separate assurance that the corporation would fulfill its obligation to the DGA. That was simply a letter of assurance." It is this letter that has got the DGC so angry. "We were quite insulted," says Barclay, "because the CBC has never signed an agreement with the DGC in our 26-year history. We have gone to bat with the CBC in a number of ways, like holding firm in terms of their budget cuts. We've been supporting the CBC."

The guild has initiated a letter-writing campaign to the CBC's Board of Governors because they feel that CBC president Pierre Juneau has ignored their protest. They have received support from the DGA as well as ACTRA and the Directors' Guild of Great Britain. Even Jack Shea has written them a letter of support.

Shea, a veteran L.A. director whose work includes *The Jeffersons* and *Golden Girls*, was brought to Toronto by PGI (*Learning The Ropes* for CTV) to director pilots for *Mosquito Lake* and *In Opposition*. Denis O'Neill, a spokesman for PGI told *Cinema Canada*, "It was a simple fact of choosing the best director available. We have used American directors before, but not with the CBC. We brought up Shea and didn't think too much of it, then the next thing you know, a hurricane hits, and we were in the eye of it."

"I think the DGC is using this as a stepping-stone to correct what they perceive as a long-standing difficulty with the CBC. I sold programming for the CBC for a long time, nearly 10 years. I know what the DGC's point of view is, and I must say I have sympathy for them. But the real underlying fight is between the DGC and the CBC. This case will go away, the problem won't."

## Venturing with Selkirk

TORONTO – Newly created Venture Entertainment Group has become the latest acquisition of Selkirk Communications of Toronto. Venture, which was started up this year by Jerry Appleton, former head of production for the Global Television Network, provides development funding, marketing, production financing and distribution for independent producers.

Venture has announced an ambitious line-up of productions including two half-hour drama series: *Verdict*, an Equity Production for Global; and *The Emergency Room*, an Apogee Production for Selkirk Television. As well Everett Banning Television Productions, in association with Venture, launched a weekly hour-long financial news service, *Canada Business Week*, in September. Venture has also completed *No Blame*, a made-for-TV movie starring Helen Shaver and produced by 3 Themes Inc. of Montreal, Hemster Productions of France and Venture for Selkirk. Danièle J. Suissa directed this first official 'twinning' between Canada and France.

In addition to Venture, Selkirk has acquired the video post-production facility Magnetic North, the Magnetic Fax Corporation, and Masters Workshop, a state-of-the-art audio post facility. Magnetic Enterprises has hired 42-year veteran Findlay Quinn to plan and head up a new motion picture lab in downtown Toronto to complement Masters, which is located in the northwest end of town.

Selkirk is a diversified communications company with broadcasting interests in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario.

It also owns cable systems in Ottawa and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Recently it has become the object of a takeover bid by Maclean-Hunter.

At press time, Selkirk's board of directors has recommended that its shareholders accept an offer of \$49.50 per share.

If this deal goes ahead it will be the biggest

takeover play in Canadian broadcasting history.

Maclean-Hunter already owns a radio station in Calgary and CFCN-TV which has stations in Calgary and Lethbridge Alberta.

Selkirk owns CFAC-TV in Calgary and CFAC-TV7 in Lethbridge as well as AM radio stations in each city.

Maclean-Hunter has undertaken to sell one of the TV stations in both Calgary and Lethbridge and one of the Calgary radio Stations.

The only thing standing in the way of the \$549 million deal is CRTC approval.

## Images '89 calls for submissions

TORONTO – After their successful inaugural year in 1988, Northern Visions Independent Video and Film Associations will be presenting Images '89 in Toronto from May 3 to 7, 1989. This year the event will be held at the Harbourfront Studio Theatre and the new Euclid Theatre operated by DEC, the Development Education Centre.

This year Images will be expanding their program to include a Trade Forum, hands-on workshops, a retrospective component, and panel discussions. According to filmmaker Annette Manguard, this year's co-ordinator, the objective of the Images Festival is to create a higher profile for independent video and film in Canada and provide a forum for the exchange of information for educators as well as video and film professionals.

Manguard says there will be three guest programmers chosen from across the country and, in addition, there will be state-of-the-art facilities to project the film and video images at the same size and resolution.

The deadline for submissions is February 1, 1989, in the following formats: Super 8, 16mm, 3/4" video and 1/2" video.

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