

“It's the first script I've ever read where Vancouver was supposed to be Vancouver!” Actress Beverly D'Angelo, at the introductory press conference for *Gold Front*, a \$4.9 million feature that began shooting on November 7th.

Written by Sean Allan and Stephan Armgrim and directed by Allan Goldstein (*Max Glick*), the film stars D'Angelo, Martin Sheen, Michael Ontkean and Canadian Kim Coates. Sheen plays a U. S. Drug Enforcement officer who's sent to Vancouver to work with an RCMP officer (Ontkean). Goldstein describes it as a political thriller which looks at Canada's role as a quick and easy route in and out of the United States.

The film is being produced by the Beacon Group using local IATSE crews and “several hundred” ACTRA actors and extras. It'll be distributed in the U. S. by Atlantic Releasing; Home Box Office has bought the rights for both video release and free television.

Fortunately the script calls for a lot of rain, something that can be virtually guaranteed at this time of year. This will come as no surprise to Ms. D'Angelo who spent some time here in the early 70's – in the company of a draft dodger friend.

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Once again the Ridge Theatre will be showing all of the features nominated for Genie Awards. Quite a marathon I should think with a record 41 films on the list. Screenings run from January 6-10 beginning each day at 10 a. m. and ending at midnight.

And, for the first time, all of the shorts and documentaries will also be seen in Vancouver prior to Genie voting. Pacific Cinematheque does the honors January 20-23.

The Academy of Canadian Film and TV, Vancouver office, has begun its annual Breakfast Club series. Next on the schedule is Alex Beaton, producer of *Wiseguy*, on 'Producing a TV series' (January 11). After that, Charles Wilkinson, producer of *Quarantine*, on making a high quality feature on a low budget (February 1), Dale Andrews of Thorne, Ernest and Whinney on 'The Effect of Telefilm Distribution Funding on Production Financing' (March 1) and, finally, publicist Maureen Verkaar on 'Romancing the Media; Are We Doing Our Share?' (April 5). All of these breakfasts-for-thought are at the Coast Georgian Court Hotel.

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Cannell Films of Canada has firmed up plans for a *21 Jump Street* spinoff. *City Court* characters will be introduced on *Jump Street* in April. Fox TV has ordered 13 episodes of the new series which, as the name suggests, focuses on the law.

Also coming from Cannell, *UNSUB* which, in FBI parlance, means an unidentified subject. NBC wants 13 episodes so badly they're skipping the pilot. The show is being put together by the team that does *Wiseguy* for CBS.

Cannell's North Shore Studios are proceeding apace. Soundstage walls are up and Steve Brain, VP of Studio Operations, has moved to Vancouver from L. A. to supervise construction.

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As we reported last month, the 7th Vancouver International Film Festival was highly successful. The same cannot be said for the BC Motion Picture Association's Trade Show. There were less than half as many participants as in '87, probably because of an alarming increase in booth prices.

Many of those that did set up for the three-day event were disappointed by the results. Last year All Sets Construction provided an imaginative 'backlot' ambience at the centrally located Robson Square Media Centre. This year Famous Events decided to use the BC Enterprises Centre (the former BC pavilion on the out-of-the-way Expo site). There's virtually no casual foot-traffic and walls of glass rendered video presentations all but invisible.

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Stunts Canada has put out an impressive catalogue of its stuntmen/women/co-ordinators. It contains 64 pages of photos showing the diversity of talent such as Alex Green, Keith Wardlow, Betty Thomas, Danny Virtue and Joy Duce. Judging by the credits there has never been a feature made in B. C. that didn't involve at least one of these talented folks. For a copy call (604) 683-3103.

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This is my last *Fronts West* column and my last issue as West Coast Editor of *Cinema Canada*. Other freelance responsibilities make it impossible to give the amount of time and effort required to adequately represent the magazine in B. C. and B. C. in the magazine. I'd like to thank all those who have supported my efforts since we opened our first Vancouver office 14 months ago, particularly Connie Tadros who has invested a great deal more than either she or the magazine have received in return. If British Columbians want a voice in *Cinema Canada* they must be willing to support it. I wish my successor the best of luck and promise that my involvement with Canadian filmmaking is far from over. That's a wrap!

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“It's a wrap!”