

Where are they now?

TEXT BY CALVIN WHARTON

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Just over a year ago *Cinema Canada* introduced you to some of British Columbia's up-and-coming names in filmmaking. We're pleased to report they've been busy. Calvin Wharton, who wrote last year's profiles, caught up with our 'alumni' and has updated their files.

Dave Hardon Post-Production

With its first year of operation behind Gastown Film Labs, manager Dave Hardon is still enthusiastic when he discusses the company. "We're much busier than we even thought we'd be," he says. "The past year has been excellent — in fact, beyond our hopes." As he predicted, there is plenty of work in Vancouver for two processing labs. Hardon's list of film and television work since last April is lengthy, and includes *The Beachcombers*, *Murphy's Law*, *Dude*, a "sporadic involvement" with Cannell's *UNSUB* and *Wiseguy* (which he says are generally processed in Los Angeles), and indigenous features such as *Ricochet* and *Cold Front*.



The Two Pegs Filmmakers

Both these filmmakers have been busy in the past year outside their combined efforts as the Two Pegs. Peg Campbell has served as vice-president of the Independent Film and Video Alliance and has been teaching film at Vancouver's Emily Carr College. Last

year she took a group of students to China, and is making a video called *Cow Demons and Snake Spirits*, from this experience. Peggy Thompson has recently been elected president of Vancouver's Women in Film. As a duo, their short film *In Search of the Last Good Man* will premiere in Toronto in May, and they plan to shoot *Bye Bye, Party Girl* (to complete their Party trilogy) this fall. Their feature's title has been changed to *The Big Flirt* and will go into production late next year.

Tom Lightburn Distributor

In the past year Tom Lightburn left Norstar to set up the theatrical feature distribution company, Festival Films, with Leonard Schein (former director of film festivals in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal) and the Edmonton-based Allarcom. Festival Films, which Lightburn says is the only Canadian distributor not actively involved in production, was founded in October 1988, and led off with distribution of the film *Buster*. The company has since lined up such films as Jonathan Kay's *Walking After Midnight*, Ann Wheeler's *Bye Bye Blues* and the Canadian feature, *Ricochet*. Festival has also become the Canadian distributor for Britain's Handmade Films, Lightburn says.



Raymond Massey
Producer

Raymond Massey is about to become a resident producer at the Canadian Centre for Advanced Film studies. Massey, who will spend nine months studying all aspects of film production, is one of 12 students in the Centre's second year of programming. The Centre recruited Massey when a search for a qualifying producer from Western Canada turned up his name. Massey's first feature, *The Traveller* (directed by Bruno Pacheco, and shot in and around Vancouver) is in final production.



Phil Savath
Scriptwriter

Phil Savath's second Genie nomination (this time for his screenplay adaptation of *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick*) is part of what he calls still being "in Glick land." The film has been doing well, and has even sold in such markets as England, Spain and Israel. "The spirit we tried to inject in the film seems to come out," Savath says. The other aspect of Glick land is the possibility of a CBC series based on the film. Savath is working on it with producer Stephen Foster and Paul Saltzman (*Danger Bay*). At this point he's story editor and writer, but may eventually do some producing. Another of Savath's television projects, *Comedy College*, ran locally and has been sold to several other markets, he says.



Tobias Schliessler
Camera Operator

Although a year ago he thought he might have to move to Toronto for work, Tobias Schliessler has managed to keep quite busy working out of Vancouver. Since April '88 he has worked on two episodes of CBC's Family pictures series, and the features *Lighthouse* and *Quarantine* among others. Currently shooting two half-hour television dramas for Shane Lunny Productions, Schliessler has several possible film and television projects lined up for the summer, including the features *Deep Sleep* (written by Patricia Gruben) and *Move Over Moon* (Rhombus Media). "Vancouver production has picked up this last year," he says, "There seems to have been as much Canadian production here as in Toronto."



Sarah Walker
Actor

The past year has been slow in terms of acting work, claims Sarah Walker, who co-starred two years ago with Andrea Burchill and Christine Lahti in Bill Forsyth's *Housekeeping*. She performed in the stage production, *Will The Real Canadian...*, with the Vancouver Youth Theatre at Expo in Brisbane, and has been studying acting and dance, she says. And Walker's still auditioning for parts, she says, optimistic that eventually she will get another film role.

Colin Browne
Filmmaker

As Director of Praxis script development workshop and as a film production instructor at Simon Fraser University, Colin Browne has spent much of the last year teaching others about film. But he enjoys working with student filmmakers; "They have an opportunity (as students) to do interesting work and take risks," he says. The completion of his documentary feature, *White Lake*, is imminent and he is in the first stages of writing a dramatic feature. He is also planning a three-part experimental film called *Your Skull is My Hose*. This film, Browne says, will be about transgression and will further develop some of the ideas dealt with in *White Lake*.



Debra Coe
Animal Trainer

Debra Coe's credits over the last year (which she says has been the busiest yet for her) include work in commercials, as well as such television and film projects as *One Boy, One Wolf, One Summer* (CBC), *Danger Bay*, *Beachcombers*, *21 Jump Street*, *UNSUB*, *Davy Crockett*, *Cousins*, *Heart Strings*, and others. She is working at present on *Ashes to Ashes*, an episode of the *Friday the Thirteenth* TV series. Coe says she is still working toward establishing her own exotic animal training facility, but says it's enough of a struggle simply to maintain her present level of operation. Her next film work will be on the John Badham film, *Bird On A Wire*, which will be shooting around Vancouver this summer.