

News of the arts

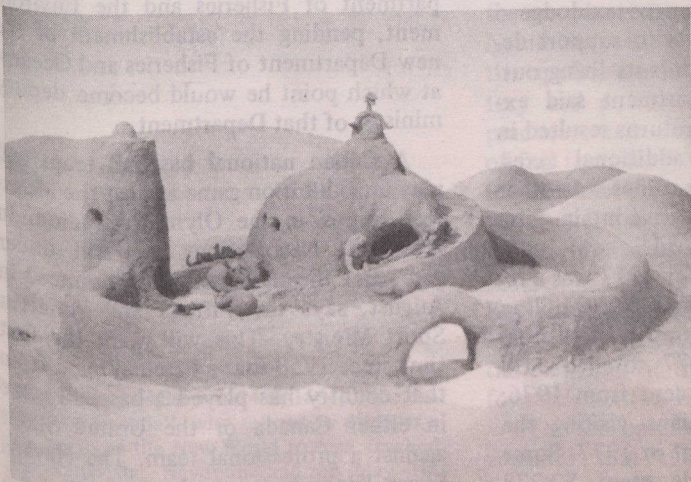
A long time between Oscars

Although National Film Board entries have been nominated for Hollywood Academy Awards a total of 49 times over the years, only twice before have the Board's films captured the honour — in 1949 for *Churchill's Island* and in 1952 for Norman McLaren's *Neighbours*.

Of the four films brought to the attention of the Academy in 1978, two — *I'll Find a Way* and *Sand Castle* — won Oscars last month. Director of the latter, Co Hoedeman, in his acceptance speech, acknowledged the importance of the Board in the development and promotion of his efforts, calling the institution "extraordinary". Beverly Shaffer, director of *I'll Find a Way*, a sensitive story about a handicapped child, thanked "the people of Canada who support the National Film Board of Canada and make it a very special and unique place to make films".

Miss Shaffer, a former high school teacher and assistant producer for television, once worked on children's and public affairs programs, two of which received Emmy awards.

Co Hoedeman, who, before joining the Film Board in 1968, studied photography in the Netherlands, where he was born, interrupted his film-making career briefly to study marionette theatre in Czechoslovakia. He is one of several guest lecturers from the NFB in a University of Southern California film course this year. His *Sand Castle*, an animated short, also won the Grand Prize at the International Animation Festival in France earlier this year.



Sand Castle, says director Co Hoedeman, is "visual poetry".

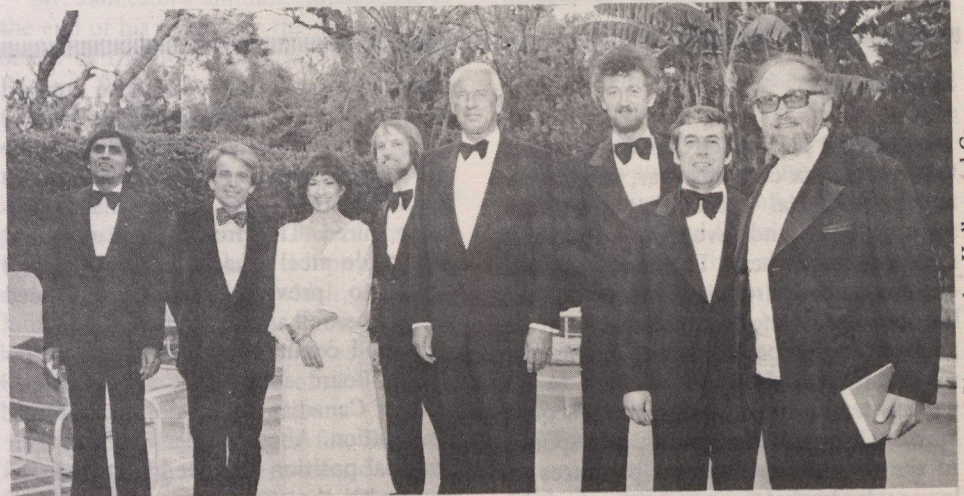
National ballet off to Europe

The National Ballet of Canada is preparing for a tour sponsored by the Department of External Affairs of eight major cities in Germany and the Netherlands, beginning May 15.

One of the highlights of the tour will be the European premiere of Ann Ditchburn's *Mad Shadows*, with music by Quebec composer André Gagnon, for one performance in The Hague. The balance of the repertoire includes three of the company's most popular full-length classical ballets: Frederick Ashton's enchanting love story *La Fille Mal Gardée*; John

Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*; Rudolf Nureyev's renowned *The Sleeping Beauty* and various one-act ballets — Frederick Ashton's *The Dream*, recently presented during the company's resident spring season; Marius Petipa's famous classic *Bayaderka* and Gerald Arpino's *Kettentanz*, set to the music of Johann Strauss Sr. and Johann Meyer.

The company's three-week engagement, which opens in Frankfurt, continues in Ludwigshafen, Leverkusen, Stuttgart and Mulheim in Germany, May 17 to 28; and ends in the Netherlands as part of the Holland Festival, performing in Utrecht, The Hague, and Amsterdam, June 1 to 4.



Winners and nominees gather at Consulate reception. From left to right, Ishu Patel, director of *The Bead Game*, nominated in the animated short category; André Lamy, film commissioner; winners Beverly Shaffer and Co Hoedeman; Donald Gilchrist, Consul General, Los Angeles; Torben Schioler and Tony Ianzelo, co-directors of *High Grass Circus*, nominated in the documentary category, and Harry Rasky, well-known Canadian film-maker.

Vanguard Photography, Hollywood Ca.



Nadia Defranco in *I'll Find a Way*, best live action short.

NFB photos