

New television film salutes spirit and independence of seniors



National Film Board of Canada

Award-winning filmmaker Donald Brittain (left) and Lenore Gnaedinger on the set of the film *Something to Celebrate*.

A new National Film Board-Canadian Broadcasting Corporation co-production, premièred recently on CBC television, sets out to prove that life does not necessarily slow down after the age of 60.

Something to Celebrate, directed by award-winning filmmaker Donald Brittain, is about 14 people, the youngest of whom is 71, the oldest, 92. From Betty Brett, who celebrated her seventy-second birthday by riding in a hot-air balloon, to Bill Oliver, a fraud artist who retired to become an honest man at the age of 74, they are all individuals with a passion for life and a fierce sense of independence.

Perpetually young in spirit, they do not like to be called "senior citizens" and they do not like to be separated from the

mainstream of life. They are simply getting on with their lives.

Murray Hubbard is a shepherd in Spearville, New Brunswick with few regrets in life and an aversion to geese. Eileen Cox founded a costume shop in Vancouver, British Columbia at the age of 50. Now well into her Eighties, she is a world traveller with no plans to retire. Ninety-year-old Francis Sutton began studying Spanish when he was 60. He currently speaks ten languages and translates opera scores.

All of the men and women who appear in the film, whether retired or still working at their trades, agree that the best way to keep alive is to be intensely curious about tomorrow.

Norman Jewison plans new film

Toronto film director Norman Jewison and his associate Patrick Palmer have announced they will co-produce for Columbia Pictures a movie about an all-woman jazz band in the Thirties. The movie, to be written by Larry Gelbart, will be called *Jazz Babies*.

Larry Gelbart is best-known for creating the television series *MASH* and *After MASH*. He is also one of the credited co-authors of the comedy *Tootsie*, and he wrote the recent Michael Caine movie, *Blame It On Rio*.

Norman Jewison is in post production on *A Soldier's Story*, the film of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway play by the same name.

CBC-FM all-night radio show

CBC-FM entered the new wave arena recently with a nightly six-hour music and talk show for young, trendy insomniacs.

Called *Brave New Waves*, regular CBC listeners may be taken aback to hear the likes of Lene Lovitch, Brian Eno and Culture Club wafting from their speakers, but the CBC—heedling recent suggestions that it actively pursue a younger audience—is in an experimental mood.

The Montreal-produced show is broadcast live, featuring host Augusta Lapaix between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday to Friday.

The first hour of *Brave New Waves* was devoted to music seldom heard on the

Top 40 charts, followed by interviews, more music and relaxed conversation taking advantage of Montreal's offbeat nightlife.

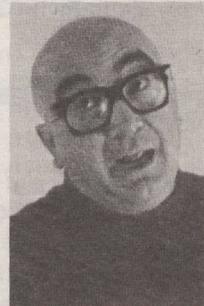
A recent internal study, *The English Radio Development Project*, was critical of the fact that the CBC programming generally ignored Canada's youth, reporting that "65 per cent of CBC Stereo listeners are over 35".

Dazzling new season for opera

The Canadian Opera Company's 1984-85 season will include the company's first staging of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, along with a production of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* directed by Broadway's acclaimed Hal Prince.

With a record production budget of \$5.3 million and 50 performances (eight more than this season), the Canadian Opera Company package will be the biggest it has ever presented at Toronto's O'Keefe Centre.

In making the announcement, general director Lotfi Mansouri said the season will begin with Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, September 29 to October 17, followed by Puccini's *Tosca*, October 13 to 28, 1984.



Lotfi Mansouri

Leonard Bernstein's operetta *Candide*, originally staged on Broadway and recently re-worked under Hal Prince's direction for the New York City Opera, enters the Canadian Opera repertoire January 19 to February 9, 1985. The production will be conducted by Erich Kunzel, with Toronto tenor Mark DuBois in the title role.

Gounod's Faust, last produced by the company in 1974, returns January 26 to February 10, 1985 and Rossini's popular *Barber of Seville*, with Canadian Opera Ensemble alumnus Theodore Baerg in the title role.

Probably the most ambitious production of the season, Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*, follows May 21 to June 2, with an expanded orchestra and chorus, stage direction by Lotfi Mansouri and musical direction by Gabor Otvos.

The season concludes with Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, June 5 to 15, in a production designed by David Hockney.