

IMAX - 'To The Max'

A Toronto-based company, IMAX Corp., makes literally the biggest movies in the world. The corporation's large 43-kilogram camera has soared through the sky in the nose cone of a Learjet, sledged down mountains with freestyle skiers and spun around an ice rink with Canadian World Champion figure skater Kurt Browning.

The screens for IMAX are from six to eight stories high and wider than a football field. The view is so extraordinary that the distance from the audience to the screen seems to disappear. Because the screen is so large, its edges escape the viewer's peripheral vision. Indeed, in some ways, being "AT THE MAX" is better than being at an actual concert. The sound is superior, the seats are more comfortable and the cost of a ticket is about half that of a live show.

One of IMAX's most recent ventures, "The Rolling Stones — AT THE MAX," is considered by many to be the most spectacular concert film ever made. For the world of corporate rock, the film offers a

technical breakthrough that could revolutionize the concert business.

According to IMAX president Fred Klinkhammer, "People are seeing this [screen], and imaginations are running wild. Record producers and high-end performers — the Michael Jacksons of the world — are going to want to see this. What we offer them is a unique form of immortality. We capture them in the purest form possible."

Mr. Klinkhammer envisions IMAX versions of lavish Broadway musicals such as "Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats," and has been discussing the possibility with the composer/director of both musicals, Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Today, 77 IMAX theatres operate worldwide, with another 25 expected to open in 1992. Company estimates reveal that, in 1991, more than 130 million viewers in 15 countries visited IMAX cinemas. The year 1992 promises to be bigger and better in every way.



Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger: a presence that made a great difference to many.

Poto Presse Internationale/Mr. Ponomareff

New AIDS Vaccine

A revolutionary new AIDS vaccine developed in the United States is now being tested on people for the first time in Canada. For the previous four years, the vaccine was tested on animals, with highly promising results. The trials involved 250 people from five cities across Canada who are HIV positive.

Dr. Walter Schlech of the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax is conducting the study in the eastern region of Canada. Says Schlech, "We are excited by the prospect, and we are on the leading edge here."

The new vaccine, known as G.P. 160, has been tested on 21 individuals over the past

year, according to Dr. Chris Tsoukas of the Montreal General Hospital, who heads the Canadian study. Tsoukas explains that the drug "tends to stabilize important immune cells and to generate new types of antibody responses." This means it might not only stop people who are HIV positive from developing AIDS, but may also protect people who are not HIV positive from ever becoming so. This vaccine is one of many currently being tested in North America and Europe, but it is by far the farthest along in its development. If all the testing proceeds well, G.P. 160 could be in general use in three years.

Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger

Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger, at one time among the most influential leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, has passed away at the age of 87. Cardinal Léger died in hospital in Montreal, in November 1991, after suffering for some years from respiratory ailments.

In 1967, Cardinal Léger stepped down as archbishop of Montreal to become a missionary in Africa, where he lived and worked for 12 years among the lepers of Cameroon. He returned briefly to Canada in 1979, in failing health, announcing his retirement. After a short rest, he travelled to southeast Asia to work with refugees along the Thailand-Cambodian border.

In 1986, the Cardinal was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The world came to know him as a champion of liberal views. Explaining why he left his prestigious post in North America to work with those in need, Cardinal Léger said, "It will be the great scandal of the history of this century that 500 million people are eating well and living luxuriously and every year millions of children are dying of hunger. I am too old to change that; the only thing I can do which makes sense is to be present."

There can be no doubt that Cardinal Léger's presence made a great difference to a considerable number of the less fortunate people of the world.