

# News of the arts

## Museum honours NFB

A major retrospective of 41 years of filmmaking by the National Film Board (NFB) opened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, January 22.

The NFB is considered to be a leader in the development of animation and documentary techniques. The program comprises 275 works and will run until September 15.

The retrospective is being presented in three sections, each covering a major area of production.

Part One, which closed February 16, focused on animation. Part Two, running from March 12-May 11, surveys the documentary film, and Part Three, which will examine documentary aspects of fiction, opens on August 24 and runs through to September.

The National Film Board of Canada was founded in 1939 by an Act of Parliament "to initiate and promote the production and distribution of films in the national interest and in particular...to interpret Canada to Canadians and to other countries". Since its inception, it has exceeded its early charter as a conveyor of information. While social issues and matters of public concern have always been addressed by NFB, it has been equally committed to quality filmmaking. Each of the three parts of the Museum's retrospective showcases the Board's balance of public service, artistic independence, formal innovation, and intelligent and lively entertainment.

Part One: *Animation* had 150 films in 20 programs, and included a com-



(Left to right): Pat Taylor, wife of Consul-General Ken Taylor; NFB Chairman James De B. Domville; Swedish actress Liv Ullman; Consul-General in New York Ken Taylor; federal Communications Minister Francis Fox; and actor Len Caribou, at the opening of the retrospective in New York.

plete retrospective of the work of Norman McClaren, who founded the NFB's animation unit in 1941. Along with such other NFB artists as Grant Munro, Caroline Leaf, Ryan Larkin, Paul Driessen, Co Hoedeman, Evelyn Lambart, Bernard Longpré and René Jodoin, McClaren's approach distinguishes the NFB as a leading centre for animation.

The 150 films in Part One: Animation were divided by theme or historical perspective into 20 programs, including three surveys of the animation unit's evolution: *The First Challenge*, *The Turning Point* and *The Later Styles*. Programs from the French unit, the English

unit and by foreign filmmakers were included, as well as selections of educational and instructional films, scientific films, films on Eskimo themes and about society.

Part Two: *Documentary* will trace the development of the documentary at NFB, covering *cinéma vérité*, compilation films, current events series and NFB co-productions with foreign filmmakers. Recent films by both the French and English units will be featured.

Part Three: *Aspects of Fiction* examines the uses of drama and the development of the feature film at the National Film Board.



A scene from North China Commune.



A scene from City of Gold.



A scene from Cry of the Wild.

National Film Board of Canada photos