

Canadian film industry presents honours to its best

Ticket to Heaven, directed by Ralph Thomas, received the Genie award as the best Canadian film of 1981 from the Academy of Canadian Cinema in ceremonies held recently in Toronto.

The Genie awards are divided into 18 categories and voting is done by the members of the Academy of Canadian Cinema. All members vote for the best film, but only the professionals themselves vote in each category — for example, producers vote for producers.

Film on cults

The film, *Ticket to Heaven*, produced by Vivienne Leebosh, Ronald I. Cohen and Alan Simmonds, relates the story of a man who was brainwashed and then saved from a San Francisco religious cult. It has been viewed in a number of Canadian and U.S. centres where it has been critically acclaimed. In July 1981, it was awarded the grand prize at the Taormina Festival in Sicily.

The Plouffe Family, *The Amateur* and *Heartaches* had also been nominated for the best picture award.

Ticket to Heaven received a number of Genies including Nick Mancuso for best actor, Saul Rubinek for best supporting actor and Ron Wisman for best film editing.

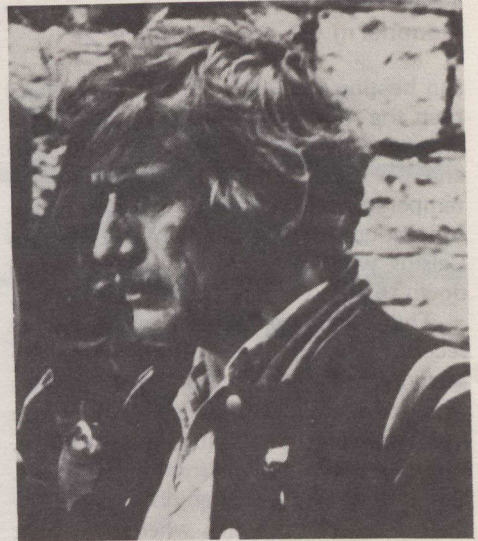
The Plouffe Family took most of the awards, winning seven: best director to Gilles Carle; best supporting actress to Denise Filiatrault; best art direction to William McCrow; best costume design to Nicole Pelletier; best original song and the best music score to Stephane Venne and Claude Denjean; and best screenplay adapted from another medium to Gilles

Carle and Roger Lemelin.

Margot Kidder won the best leading actress award for her portrayal in *Heartaches*. Other awards for *Heartaches* included best original screenplay to Terry Heffernan and best performance by a foreign actress to Annie Potts.

Genie awards were also presented to Richard Leiterman for best cinematography in *Silence of the North* and to Alan Arkin for best performance by a foreign actor in *Improper Channels*. The film *Heavy Metal* won two awards with Peter Jermyn, Andy Malcolm and Peter Thillaye receiving the award for best sound editing and Dan Goldberg, Austin Grimaldi, Joe Grimaldi and Gordon Thompson taking the award for best sound.

The theatrical short award went to André Leduc and Jean-Jacques Leduc for



Plouffe director Gilles Carle.

Sea and the theatrical documentary award was given to Holly Dale and Janice Cole for *P4W: Prison for Women*.

In addition to the award ceremonies, two major receptions were held during the day. Among the personalities involved in the activities were Peter Ustinov, Mariette Hartley, Glenn Ford and Gale Garnett.



Ticket to Heaven star Nick Mancuso.



Annie Potts (left) and Margot Kidder in the film *Heartaches*.

Mennonite history to be filmed

Canadian Mennonites are preparing a dramatized 90-minute documentary film tracing their own history.

The film's working title is *And When They Shall Ask*, a reference to biblical scriptures such as a verse in Joshua that gives instructions to teach descendants about the past.

The Mennonites left Prussia at the invitation of Catherine the Great in 1788 to settle on the steppes of Russia and later migrated to nations around the world. There is a large Mennonite population in the western Canadian provinces.

Dave Dueck, executive producer of the film and Cornelius Krahn, a noted Mennonite author and lecturer, are visiting western Canadian communities to raise money for the project. Dueck, president of Dueck Film Productions Limited of Winnipeg, said the project has a budget of \$300 000 and enough financing has been raised to start filming.

Dueck's company produced a documentary of the Mennonites of Paraguay where large attendance at showings of the film indicated there is an awakening of interest in Mennonite heritage.