

News of the arts

Canadian firms win awards

Seven Canadian firms were honoured recently in Calgary at the second annual *Financial Post* Awards for Business in the Arts.

The awards are sponsored by the *Financial Post*, in collaboration with the Canadian Conference of the Arts and the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada.

The awards were set up to encourage Canadian companies to involve themselves with the visual and performing arts in this country, and to recognize corporations whose involvement in this area is an example to their peers.

Awards were presented to Imperial Oil Limited for innovative use of corporate support, to Sunwapta Broadcasting of Edmonton for community leadership in the arts, and to Texaco Canada Ltd. for sustained corporate leadership in support of the arts.

Honourable mentions went to Island Farms Dairies Co-op Association of Victoria for innovative involvement in the arts, to American Express Canada and the Friars Cellar restaurant of London, Ontario for community involvement, and to Canadian International Paper Co. of Montreal for sustained involvement.

First cartoon feature film

Drats, a \$5.4-million musical believed to be the first animated feature film ever made in Canada is being produced by Nelvana, a Toronto animation company. It will be the company's first feature film.

Nelvana's past products include television specials: *The Devil and Daniel Mouse*, *A Cosmic Christmas* and *Easter Fever*.

Drats is set in the "medieval future" and "explores allegorically the power of music and the abuses of power". Omar, a young musician, seeks to make his way in a profession dominated by superstar Mok; Omar's quest is aided by lead singer Angel, eventually kidnapped by the evil Mok. On paper, the plot sounds like a combination of Ralph Bakshi's *Wizards* and Brian De Palma's *Phantom of the Paradise*.

Nelvana's future plans encompass another television special *The Day the Earth Made the Playoffs*, an intergalactic baseball film with the voice of Phil Silvers and music by Rick Danko, formerly of The Band.

Publishers receive funds

Financial assistance totalling \$4.5 million is being provided to 60 Canadian publishing firms as part of the Federal Government's \$5.4-million Canadian book publishing program for 1979-80.

Publishers from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are included among the beneficiaries. This is the first year of a three-year assistance program.

Under the two major components of the program, sales and marketing incentives, and textbook and related materials assistance, a total of \$4.5 million is being paid out to eligible Canadian firms on a one-time basis for the fiscal year 1979-80.

The most important element in the program is the provision of sales and marketing incentives to eligible book publishers. Canadian publishing firms are being encouraged to mount an aggressive promotion and marketing effort, domestically and abroad, and through the resulting increased sales volumes, these firms can achieve greater cash flow and profitability. Only those firms who have demonstrated staying power in the industry and effectiveness in generating sales of books will receive assistance

under the program.

The remaining \$900,000 being provided in 1979-80 under the Canadian Book Publishing Development Program assists Canadian publishing firms in such areas as foreign rights marketing, evaluation of management and operational systems, project research and implementation, data gathering, and professional development.

CBC awards for young composers

Toronto composer John Burke recently won first prize in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's fourth biennial National Radio Competition for young composers.

Burke was awarded the \$4,000 first prize for a composition requiring up to 12 performers called *Interface*, which was written for two pianos. He also split the \$3,000 second prize in the *a cappella* choir category with Denis Gougeon of Outremont, Quebec.

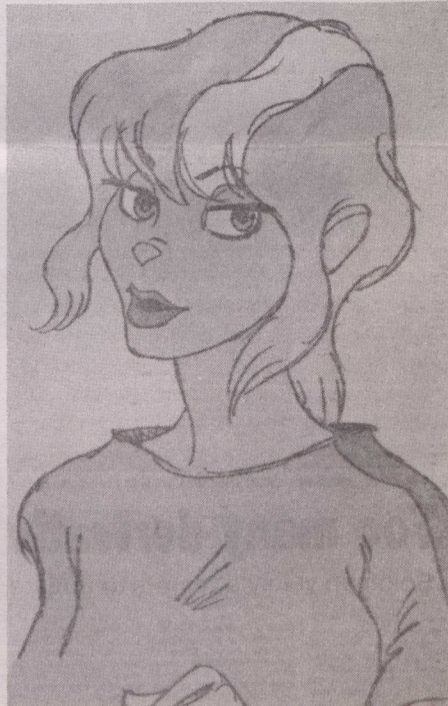
Mark Hand of Winnipeg won the \$3,000 second prize in the category for compositions requiring up to 12 performers. Hand's prize-winning piece, *Soliloquy*, was written for mezzo-soprano, clarinet, glass harmonica and percussion.

First place prizes were awarded in neither the *a cappella* choir division or the electronic music class.

The finals were held at the University of British Columbia's Recital Hall. The panel of judges was made up of three Canadian composers: R. Murray Schafer, Barbara Pentland and Alain Gagnon, with Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu acting as international juror.

Arts brief

Organizers for the Mariposa Folk Festival announced recently that the festival will be presented in a changed format in 1980 to celebrate its twentieth anniversary. The festival will be highlighted by a number of special events throughout the year in co-operation with other arts organizations, a departure from the customary three-day presentation of folk music and crafts held on Toronto Island for the last 12 years. The festival hopes to provide greater public access to folk music by presenting a series of "happenings" throughout Toronto.



Angel in *Drats* is kidnapped by Mok.

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