

Film

Film fest offers look at third world

Interviews by C. Boyd

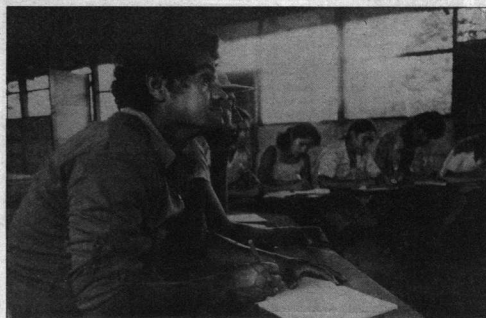
Eight years ago, two hundred Edmontonians got together to watch a few films about poverty, hunger, and violence in the Third World.

Next weekend, over 3,000 people will attend the Eighth Annual Third World Film Festival (March 4-6) kicking off International Week on campus.

The film festival is being held by the Edmonton Learner's Centre in the Tory Lecture Theatres and at the International Centre in HUB Mall.

This year, the festival includes over fifty films, many of them new and in Alberta for the first time. As well as the films, there will be live entertainment, photo exhibits, work-

shops, an international expo, and, on Saturday night, a dance with the reggae band "Reality" at the Power Plant. The International Centre will be open as an indoor Beer Garden and lounge area.



A classroom in Nicaragua...

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Kevin Flaherty, coordinator of the event, says that the film fest is meant to be an entertaining way of educating people and exposing them to issues that they might otherwise not encounter. The Learner's Centre selected the films from distributors across North America, with the aim of looking at Third World issues from the point-of-view of

an ordinary citizen. Although many of the films appear to have a leftist bias, Flaherty says: "I wouldn't say the films are necessarily socialist or anti-American. Some are critical not of the American people, but of American foreign policy, because that policy has had an impact on much of the world... in some areas, it has been instrumental in maintaining unequal conditions..."

Even though it is called the "Third World Film Festival", several films being shown are about issues in Canada and the United States. Examples include such as the film about Richard Cardinal, *Foster Child*, or *Black and Blue*, about police brutality in Philadelphia. There is even a documentary on medieval witchcraft.

The reason for including these films in the festival, says Flaherty, is to "reflect our belief that many of the problems attributed to the Third World are part of a more general problem. There is a side to some of these issues affecting us here in Canada: like *Dene Nation* (a film about aboriginal rights in the Mackenzie Valley) for example... We want people to know that it's not just a question of 'over there'."

The workshops, being held on Saturday and Sunday, are a new feature. They address such topics as Central America, the global

World issues on film

Iceman of Chimborazo
(Ecuador, 1980, 21 min.
Sunday, Mar. 6, 9:00 p.m., Theatre 2)

Every Friday morning since the time of the Spanish conquest, the peasants of Chimborazo have made the long climb up into the Andes mountains and carried back down the once-sacred glacial ice to sell in their village marketplace.

Some days they lose their sale to the local ice factory; usually, they earn the equivalent of \$4.00 for their labour.

Icemen of Chimborazo follows the peasants one Friday and gives an interesting look at the social and economic conditions of a life that has not changed much in over 300 years.

Stranger at Home
(Palestine, 1985, 93 min.
Friday, Mar. 4, 7:00 p.m., Theatre 1)

In 1985, the exiled Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata returned to Jerusalem for the first time in 18 years; *Stranger at Home* is a record of his trip.

Boullata is candid and eloquent about his emotions as he visits his father's grave, walks

through a Palestinian ghetto on the Gazo Strip, speaks to a man who was tortured by the Israelis, and applies for Israeli citizenship.

The film is further enriched by the complex interplay between Boullata and his friend, and the film's producer, Van de Berg, who is Jewish. *Stranger at Home* is a rich, thought-provoking film.

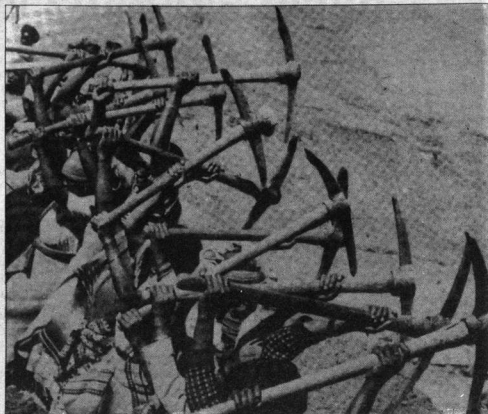
Nuclear Follies
(Canada, 1986, 27 min.
Saturday, Mar. 5, 4:30 p.m., Theatre 2)

In one scene of this film, two women stand comparing missile systems as though they are leading detergents. Which missile would be more effective at wiping out that ugly stain Russia?

A minute later, a Reagan advisor insists that anyone could escape injury in a nuclear attack if he had "enough brains to walk for one hour" and step behind a lilac bush.

This light-hearted satire uses a mixture of archival footage, modern musicians, poetry, and theatre, scored by appropriate vaudeville music, to comment on life under the mushroom cloud.

After viewing some of the festival's more sobering films, *Nuclear Follies* might provide a welcome change.



Workers of the world struggle for equality

labour market, and nuclear disarmament. The workshops are intended to give festival-goers a chance to discuss the issues being raised, to receive more information about these issues, and to get involved with groups that deal with them.

"Says Flaherty: "We've had a problem in the past with some people coming to the festival who aren't prepared for the reality of the films. It's upsetting. The workshops will give them a chance to 'debrief'."

One of the festival's many sponsors is Salvaide, a humanitarian organization con-

cerned mainly with civilian projects in El Salvador. As well as having a display table at the Expo, Salvaide will be hosting the dance on Saturday night. Funds from the dance will go towards Salvaide's non-military projects. Salvaide will also be hosting a Latin American Coffee House at the end of International Week.

"Our aim," says Yvan Beaubien, a Salvaide spokesperson, "is to help give the proper means for the people to come out of their poverty, which is the ultimate answer to war in Central America."

Another festival sponsor is the group Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid (CARA). CARA takes stands against racism in Alberta such as that demonstrated by the white supremacist group in Caroline and the pro-



Women working in fields of Nicaragua

standards. There are a lot of governments in Africa and South-East Asia that have probably done better with a less democratic system. They probably value having food, having babies that they know will live, having jobs, rather than having a particular government."

That is what the film festival can offer: a chance to judge the world by someone else's standards, a world where passing the mid-term on Tuesday or buying a new bike aren't the most important issues. This festival offers a look at the harsh problems, and also the joys, of another way of life.

Tickets for the film festival are \$12 for the weekend (\$10 in advance), \$4 a session, and can be purchased at tables in SUB and HUB Thursday and Friday between 11 and 2 p.m., or at the door.

One-act play fest at Chinook

by June Chua

The Chinook Theatre is presenting a 1-Act Play Festival on Mar. 4 & 5th. All the artists are from Edmonton and the actors range from young people to the semi-professional.

Three different plays will be presented each night. The performances on Friday include: *The Lover* by Harold Pinter; the Edmonton premiere (and possibly the first English premiere) of *The Woman The Wrong Man* by I. Kambanellis; *Cur* by Lyle Victor Albert.

On Saturday, local Edmontonian Geral Osborn will present a new work called *Family Squabbles*. It, too, will be a premiere.

The Faculte St Jean will perform *Le Cirque* by Claude Mauriac, and lastly, *Laundry and Bourbon* by James McClure.

The plays will be adjudicated by judges each night to the audience and performers. The "winning" play will then represent Edmonton at the provincial festival in Calgary.

Says Kathleen Bednar, the Edmonton Zone Representative of the Alberta Drama Festival Association: "It's like a Fringe Festival, but the stage is rented out for the artists (who applied to present a work)."

Tickets are \$5 per evening or \$8 for both nights. You can reserve tickets at Chinook Theatre or buy them at the door.