

ENTERTAINMENT

NFT Offers Alternatives

by David Jordan

If you're tired of Hollywood space-zap, and want to know what ever happened to movies with things like plot and acting, check out the National Film Theatre. When Peter Roberts took the helm as program director of the NFT this summer, his first priority was to debunk the myth of the elitist "artsy" film cult, and to provide Edmonton theatre-goers with alternatives to the Hollywood mainstream.

In just two months, Roberts has put together an exciting fall schedule that should appeal to anyone who appreciates filmmaking at its best. First on the agenda is the NFT's first Festival of International Films. Between September 21 and September 30, the NFT will be showing 11 films from 8 countries.

Each film will be an Edmonton premiere. The lineup includes everything from *Big Meat Eater*, a Canadian-produced farce in the *Rocky Horror* vein ("When the corpse of mayor Rigatoni is accidentally stowed in the butcher's freezer, Abdulla, his mountainous murderer, takes a job there in order to dispose of the body. A pair of aliens in a flying saucer raise Rigatoni from the dead to tap the radio-active resources of the butcher's septic tank, where the meat scraps and chemical solvents have reacted to form BALONEUM ..) to *Love letter*, an American film that takes a serious look at one woman's

attempt to reconcile romantic fantasy with physical desire.

Of particular interest in the International Festival is *Death Target*, produced, written and directed by two Edmonton film makers: Jorge Montesi and Peter Haynes.

Death Target was shot entirely in Edmonton at a cost on \$12,000. Post-production brought the budget to \$62,000, and the film has already grossed several times that much through pre-sales of distribution rights and video cassettes.

With distribution rights already sold in Canada, Australia, Europe and the United States, *Death Target* will be making its world premier at Ziedler Hall, in the Citadel Theatre, on Sunday, September 23.

All films in the series will be shown in Ziedler Hall. Prices are: \$3:50 per film for NFT members, and \$5 for non-members. Festival passes are available on a limited basis, at \$25 for members, and \$35 for non-members.

Keeping with his aim to heighten the NFT's public involvement, Peter Roberts has organized a timely film series/panel discussion in October on the subject of politics and journalism.

The series will begin with a screening of *All The President's Men*, on October 19, followed immediately by a panel discussion/public debate involving three of Canada's top journalists: Knowlton Nash, George Oake, and Dave Billington.

In the wake of the Canadian election and with the American election just around the corner, the discussion/debate will probably be dominated by questions involving the role of the press in North American elections, but Roberts expects that topics will range from press censorship to third-world politics and the press.

The admission price to the opening event of the Politics and Journalism series will include a cocktail party before the screening of *All the President's Men*, admission to the discussion/debate, and a post-debate bash

at the City Media Club.

The Politics series continues through October with some of the best films ever made on the topic, including, among others: *Z*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, and *History on the Run*, a documentary on Joe Clarke's successful '79 campaign. Details on the series are available in the NFT October/November program.

In November, Canada's Ten Best Films Ever is a series that will appeal to everybody.

For further information about dates, prices, etc., contact the NFT, at 426-4811.

NFT Festival of International Films

Fri.Sept.21	7:15 9:15 Midnight	Ascendancy (Great Britain 1982) Invitation Au Voyage (France 1982) Big Meat Eater (Canada 1982)
Sat. Sept.22	7:15 9:15	Heatwave (*Australia 1982) Variety (Germany/U.S.A. 1983)
Sun.Sept.23	7:15 9:15	Kamilla (Norway 1981) Death Target (Canada 1983)
Mon.Sept.24.	7:15 9:15	Au Clair de la Lune (Canada 1982) The Eyes, The Mouth (Italy 1982)
Tue.Sept.25	7:15 9:15	Love Letters (U.S.A. 1983) Au Claire de la Lune
Wed.Sept.26	7:15 9:15	The Arrest (Switzerland 1983) Kamilla
Thu.Sept.27	7:15 9:15	Variety Love Letters
Fri.Sept.28	7:15 9:15 Midnight	DEATH TARGET Heatwave Big Meat Eater
Sat Sept.29	7:15 9:15	The Eyes, The Mouth The Arrest
Sun. Sept.30	7:15 9:15	Invitation au Voyage Ascendancy

Quick Cash

NFT needs someone to distribute pamphlets on campus and along Whyte Avenue. About \$30 for a couple of days' work. Also required: sandwich-man. Phone Peter Roberts at 426-4811 or 435-6223.

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Photo Bill St. John