

■ The *Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP)*, Secretariat of Public Education is responsible for the cultural aspects of film and television. It operates through the *Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (Conaculta)*, National Council on the Arts and the *Instituto Mexicano de Cinematografía (Imcine)*, Mexican Film Institute. They conduct programs to encourage domestic production of films that promote Mexican culture, and to coordinate government activity in the sector.

Copyright protection is governed by the *Dirección General del Derecho del Autor*.

Under the *Ley de las Cámaras de Comercio y de las de Industria*, law governing the chambers of commerce and industry associations, companies in the film and television industry are required to belong to the *Cámara Nacional de la Industria Cinematográfica y del Videograma (Canacine)*, National Chamber of the Film and Television Industry. Producers, distributors and exhibitors of both films and video recordings, as well as laboratories and other technical providers are all specifically required to join. In 1995, *Canacine* reported that it had 2,175 members. Two-thirds of the members are engaged in film production and about 18 percent in television production. Many companies in the industry also belong to more specialized voluntary industry associations.

The *Ley Federal de Cinematografía*, Law of the Film Industry, was enacted in December 1992 to replace an earlier law that was last amended in 1952. It is designed to promote the development of the Mexican film industry. The regulatory aspects of the new law are administered by *Imcine*. Among other things, it includes sanctions against illegal copying of films and video recordings.

Some aspects of this law have been controversial. It will phase out the requirements for minimum screen time for Mexican productions. The former law had required exhibitors to devote a minimum of 50 percent of screen time to Mexican films. This requirement was reduced beginning in 1993, and is set at 10 percent until the end of 1997, at which time it will be eliminated. This measure is expected to reduce the resources available to the domestic film industry.

Another controversial aspect of the law is that it empowers the *Dirección General de Radio, Televisión y Cinematografía* to vary the limits on the number of foreign films that can be dubbed into Spanish. The agency has already authorized *Televisa* and *Televisión Azteca*, the two largest exhibitors of televised movies, to dub more than 100 movies for exhibition on television. Additional authorizations are anticipated. This move is supported by the dubbing companies but opposed by the artistic community.