

GORDON PINSENT, ACTOR AND WRITER



"Lovely Tell Your Mother" — the jaunty, carefree battlecry of *The Rowdyman*.

By the time Canadian viewers had become familiar with his face on television, Gordon Pinsent, who wrote the scenario for *The Rowdyman* and played the title role, found himself type-cast as a politician. Canadians identified him with the Member of Parliament from Moose Falls who gave his name to the weekly TV series *Quentin Durgens, M.P.*, carried on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation English network.

Soon Hollywood interested itself in Pinsent, who comes from Grand Falls, Newfoundland, and he found himself cast as President of the United States in the TV film *Colossus: The Forbin Project*. But, the actor-writer admits, though the money was good he grew bored with the politician's image he was projecting.

Then, after an absence of five years, the CBC offered to let him make a 30-minute "special" to his own specifications. Though he duly re-enacted one of



Gordon Pinsent and his wife Charmion King know how to make each other laugh, a talent they exercise frequently.

the big scenes from *Quentin Durgens, M.P.*, he also played both the title-role and the young lover Christian from Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*. But probably his *tout de force* on this program was his portrayal of a Newfoundlander of about 60, "white-knuckling his way into old age". The character is from another of Pinsent's own scripts, entitled *John and the Missus*. There was also time during this program for two songs written by Pinsent — a ballad and a satire.

Canada's television reviewers rediscovered Pinsent and, a few months later, the film critics got their chance with the release of *The Rowdyman*. Again it was Pinsent in a Pinsent-written role, and again he held up both ends superbly. The rowdyman is another Newfoundlander, a perennial teen-age prankster getting older without growing up. The film, 80 percent of which is farce, has just enough serious moments to remind you that Pinsent, as an actor and a writer, has untapped reserves of sensitivity and power and a strong sense of the tragic.



Director of photography Ed Long catches the romping action of one of the film's rowdiest scenes.

Gordon Pinsent lives in Sherman Oaks, California, with his wife, the actress Charmion King, and their daughter Leah. He longs to return to Canada instead of commuting "I can't wait to get back, to feel that's a step forward in my career. And if I can be a contributing force to the Canadian film industry, I'd like to be that."

Well, the industry is growing quickly and so is the audience for made-in-Canada entertainment. Gordon Pinsent is one of the most versatile talents to come from the performing arts in this country. He's coming to terms with his many talents and now the industry appears to be coming to terms with them too. A reunion seems inevitable.