

# The nurturing of Canadian video culture

by Sherri Ritchie

When you hear the word video, how many of you think of mindless drugs and scenes of perversion? Well, on December 6, you have the chance to think again and see how much more there is to the new media than just rock videos. "Some really exceptional artists from all over the world express issues, concepts, and culture through video," remarks Lisa Hemeon of Video Culture International. But she continues, "In the past there wasn't a venue for artists and producers to show their work." Thus, in 1982, Video Culture International was born.

This brainchild of Renya Onasick and Peter Lynch was created to promote independent artists, media as a tool for social change, and video innovation. Now, on the eve of their fourth festival, Hemeon says "we've expanded and excelled and surpassed our first initiatives." Not only that, but they have made all of this accessible to the public.



Again this year they are organizing an international competition in categories

ranging from video art to new documentary and it can be seen on MuchMusic from today through to Saturday. Prizes are provided by Sony, the main corporate sponsor of VCI. They also offer financial support to the organization and office space in their building in Toronto. "Sony is an integral part to our whole being," Hemeon says. "but it is in their best interest to encourage people to become involved in video since that is what their business is."

The fact that Video Culture is an international organization with roots in Canada may make you wonder what this does for Canadian artists — who aren't always a real success on the international scene. "The exposure is more accessible to Canadians, but we try not to differentiate from other countries," says Hemeon. "We wanted to develop an international level of communication through video so we approach other countries just as much."

For the first time in their four year history, VCI has taken their show on the road. From Halifax to Vancouver they have shown previews of the festival and consider it a big success. "The responses were interesting," claims Hemeon. "The things we were showing tended to be very eclectic and the reactions were varied. They ranged from 'Wow, this is really interesting' to plain bewilderment." They also tended to vary from city to city. "In Halifax it was a learning experience for them," Hemeon explains. "Whereas in Vancouver they were more familiar and knowledgeable with what we are doing and we were very well received there."

Next on the agenda for VCI if what they call their "huge physical event" this summer. Hemeon explains, "We're coordinating the different aspects of the industry into a huge forum. We hope to get the public to understand what's going on in the video world."

## Edmonton's art on deck

by Jerome Ryckborst

I sometimes wonder . . . is it fair to compare Edmonton designers to the rest of the world? Local designers have come a long way. A few can — and do — hold their own nationally. The remainder are still learning.

Latitude 53 recently sponsored a sell-out fashion show — the ART DECK-OUT — with a theme of 'wearable art'.

Compared to what was going on in Edmonton ten years ago, the Latitude show reflects progress, in leaps and bounds! Yet on a broader scale the garments showing at the Art Deck-Out were neither wearable nor art.

To be wearable, a garment must be functional. You should be able to put it on, button or zip it up, move in it, and so on. What 'designer' would make a whole men's outfit — coat, pants and shirt — without pockets?

As for the art angle — for many this consists of doodling on fabric, then draping it over the body with little understanding of the fit.

Nevertheless, it is great to see local people

experimenting with clothing. As a language for expression clothing can be effective, but it is an extremely difficult medium to master. Many call themselves 'designers' before they deserve the title — while they are still in the learning stages.

Progress is being made. While many locals are only into two-dimensional surface texture (that is, drawing, painting, splattering) a few are starting to develop their draping and tailoring skills. Clothing is three-dimensional, but 3-d design is difficult to learn.

One coat by Cara Skuttle showed a refreshing use of pleats. A few of the body suits showed potential, and most garments were well-constructed.

The jewelry was also interesting, especially the animal pins by Gloria Mok and some of the silver work.

Overall the Edmonton fashion scene is in healthy shape, but still in childhood. The designers who showed at the Art Deck-Out have the potential to really make a statement.



### Joke Jokes

## Kedney kabaret

**PROFESSIONAL STAND-UP COMEDY**  
NEW SHOW STARTS THURS. 9 PM.  
December 4, 5 & 6

**Mr. WAYNE FLEMING** (Toronto)  
*(Canada's Funniest Impressionist)*

Howard Glassman  
Kenny Robinson  
as M.C.

**ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

TWO SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

DO YOU WANT TO BE A COMEDIAN? IF SO, BETWEEN 8:30 - 9:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY WE HAVE "OPEN MIKE". PUT A 5 MINUTE ROUTINE TOGETHER AND SERVE IT TO A LIVE AUDIENCE.

**RESERVATIONS**  
BOX OFFICE HOURS  
TUES. - SAT. 2-6 P.M.      **466-2131**  
7103-76 AVE.

# Apples

*Good food and drink!*

**Great Value, Casual Dining**  
SUNDAY BRUNCH  
OPEN TILL 12:00 AM WEEKNIGHTS  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY TILL 1:00 AM

**7707 - 104 St.    Edmonton    432-1720**

VISIT "APPLES RESTAURANT" AND RECEIVE

**FREE**  
**APPLE'S PATE APPETIZER**  
*(with pepper corn sauce)*

**OR**  
**APPLE'S CREAMY CRUNCH DESSERT !!!**

*by presenting purchase receipt from the following merchants:*

RIZKO Jewellers & Watchmakers 10466 - 82 (Whyte) Avenue	Little Royal 10334 - 82nd Avenue	Sounds of Music (1976) Ltd. 10458 - 82 Avenue
Earthly Goods 10428 - 82 Ave.	United Cycle & Motor Co. (1975) Ltd. 10344 - 82 Avenue	Chapman Bros. Ltd. 10421 Whyte Ave/8920-112 St.
Cobblestone Gift Gallery 10306 Whyte Avenue	Pacesetter Ski Shoppes 6604 - 104 St.	Turnbull Motors 7821 - 104 Street
"Something Special" Flowers Inc. 10533 - 82 Ave.	Shinto Furniture Designs 10530 - 124 St./8139 - 104 St.	Plaza Drugs & Gifts 8015 - 104 Street
Bee-Bell Health Bakery Ltd. 8124 - 103rd Street	Hair by Marguerite 7708 B - 104 Street	Leader Dry Cleaners (1976) Ltd. 7625 - 104 Street
ComputerLand 10510 - 82nd Ave.	Strathcona T.V. Ltd. 10328 - 82 Ave.	Zoryana 8206 - 104 St.

**APPLES Good Food & Drink!**

## TRAVEL CUTS

INTRODUCES . . .

# Contiki

**WEDNESDAYS !!!**

**COME IN TO YOUR NEAREST TRAVEL CUTS OFFICE ON ANY WEDNESDAY IN DECEMBER, JANUARY OR FEBRUARY (except Dec. 24 & 31), BOOK, AND PAY YOUR DEPOSIT ON YOUR CONTIKI TOUR AND CUTS CHARTER TO LONDON, AND RECEIVE:**

- A FREE NIGHT IN LONDON
- A CONTIKI SWEATSHIRT
- A TRAVEL CUTS MONEY BELT
- A CONTIKI TOTE BAG

**THE EXPERT SERVICE OF THE**

## WHIZZES AT TRAVEL CUTS



Student Union Building, U of A  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J7  
403-432-2592

10424A - 118 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0P7  
403-471-8054  
800-272-5615