

# ENTERTAINMENT

Over 200 critics pick Canada's ten best films ever

## Canada's Top 10: a retrospective

by David Jordan

Canadian films, eh? What's that? Well, here's your chance to find out. Canada's Ten Best, a collection of the best Canadian films ever, as voted by over 200 critics, producers, and professors, opened last night at the National Film Theatre.

The film series was initiated by the Toronto Festival of Festivals last September; Labatt's has picked up the funding for this cross-Canada tour; and the Canadian Film Institute is handling the organizational end of it.

Canada's film industry has been maligned, if not ignored by Canadian distributors and critics, who seem to prefer the razzle dazzle of American films. As a result, some of the most beautiful, moving, and politically controversial films in the world have gone almost unnoticed right here in Canada, where they were produced.

Quebec films predominate this series, with 7 of the 10 films shot in Quebec, and 6 in French (shown with English subtitles). This Quebec dominance is not surprising, considering that culture and politics are much more closely related in Quebec, and government support of the film industry in that province is substantially higher than in the rest of the country.

Most of these films are dated — the average is about 11 years old — and perhaps now is a fitting time for such a retrospective. Canadian films proliferated in the boom years of the 70's, then fell into a slump in the last five years. The Canadian film industry has been regrouping, and what emerges after this period of consolidation may represent a whole new direction in films.

A major influence in this new direction is Telefilm Canada, a government sponsored organization (formerly Canadian Film Development Corporation) devoted to promoting Canadian films. The conditions of their fund-

*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* and *Mon Oncle Antoine* are fairly well known outside of *La Belle Province*, but one film that drew little attention outside of Quebec is *Les Ordres*. *Les Ordres* follows the lives of five individuals who were arrested under the War Measures Act in 1970, and for we Westerners who witnessed the October Crisis with complacency, this film is a real shocker, destined to change a few minds about Trudeau's heavy handed response to the FLQ.

The rest of the films cover the entire Canadian landscape, from Nova Scotia (*Go In Down the Road*) to British Columbia (*The Grey Fox*).

ing stipulate that a film maker find a television broadcaster to fund one-third of the film project, and Telefilm Canada will match that amount.

That's right; that means that the majority of films made in Canada will be shot on video. With total international film distribution grossing about \$7 billion last year, and video cassette distribution grossing \$125 billion, this is definitely the wave of the future.

With new video technology, video movies will no longer be limited by the small screen. Already, Sony markets 8x12 foot screens with resolution that can compete with 35 millimeter film, and it will only be a matter of years before the average living room will be sporting similar wall-sized video screens.

It may be another 25 years before we're looking at a retrospective of the ten best Canadian video movies, though. For now, I suggest you take advantage of this rare opportunity to see the best of the last 20 years in Canadian films.

Canada's Ten Best is running nightly at the National Film Theatre, Ziedler Hall, the Citadel, through this Sunday, Nov. 11. For times and ticket information, phone the National Film Theatre at 426-4811.



Micheline Lanctot stars in *La Vrai Nature de Bernadette*.



*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* won 6 major awards, including The Golden Globe Award and grand prize at the Berlin Film Festival 1974.



*Mon Oncle Antoine* was a critical success in English Canada, U.S.A. Britain and France.

# CABARETS

DINWOODIE  
2nd Floor SUB

DOORS  
8:00 pm

Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd floor SUB) and various club members.  
NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff and guests. Absolutely no minors admitted!

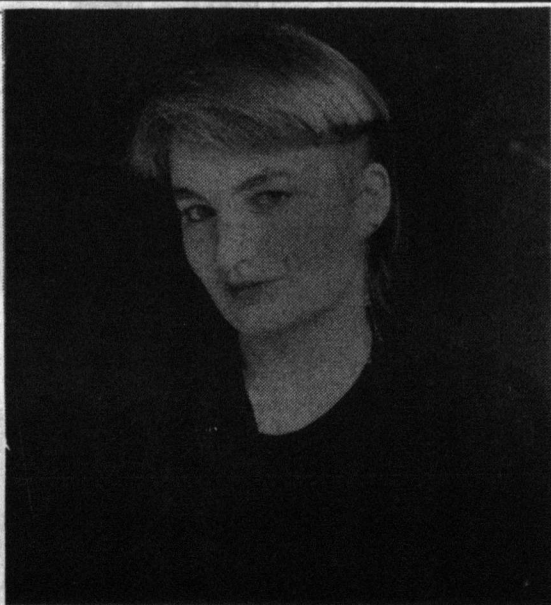
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Friday, November 16