

News of the arts

Cartoon festival in Ottawa

A Hungarian film-maker took the top prize at the six-day International Animation Film Festival held recently in Ottawa.

The Festival Prize for most popular film went to Hungarian animator Ferenc Rofusz for his three-minute work *A Bogar* (*The Fly*). The film, a fly's-eye view of the world, was the film director's first work.

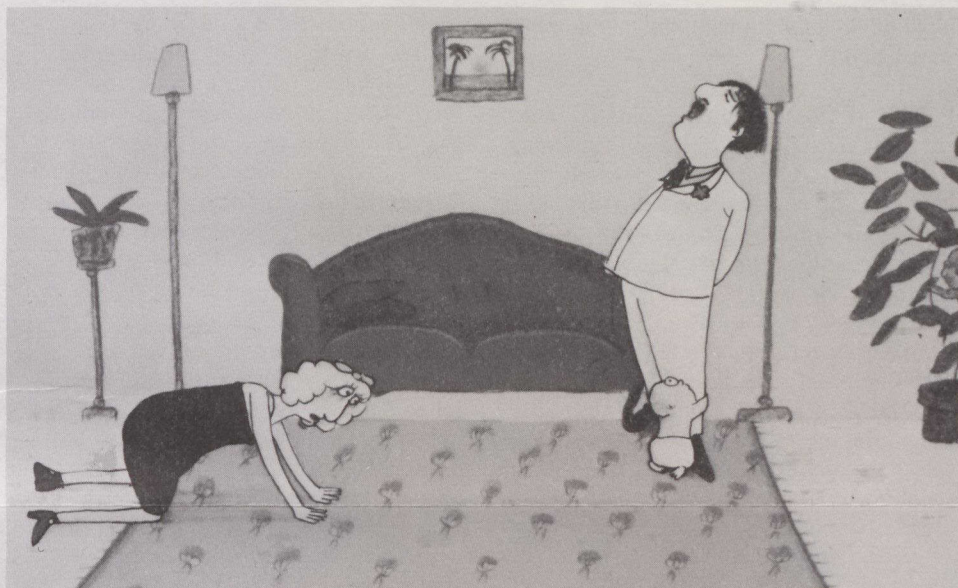
British film-maker Geoff Dunbar's, *Ubu*, an adaptation of the Alfred Jarry play, *Ubu Roi*, was awarded the Grand Prize.

The two major winners were selected from more than 100 animated films in competition. The films chosen for competition were selected from 619 initially entered from 36 countries.

The Ottawa International Animated Film Festival is a bi-annual event that began in 1976. It is the only major competitive animation festival in North America and only one of four in the world. It is sponsored by the Canadian Film Institute and with the assistance of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the National Film Board of Canada (NFB).

Winners were chosen in several categories:

- The Soviet film *Skazka Skazok* (*The Tale of Tales*), a 27-minute blend of



A scene from award-winning National Film Board film *Every Child*.

several animated styles by Juri Norstein, was best work over three minutes.

- A Canadian film *The History of the World in Three Minutes Flat* by Michael Mills was best work under three minutes.

- The prize for best promotional film went to American Richard Williams, for a commercial extolling the virtues of the *Washington Post*.

- *Every Child*, already a winner this year of the Academy Award for animation, was picked as the best first film. The NFB production was directed by

Eugene Fedorenko.

- In the category of children's film, the winner was *It's So Nice to Have a Wolf Around the House*, directed by Paul Fierlinger of the United States.

- *This Is Your Museum Speaking*, a NFB production by Lynn Smith, was chosen best instructional film.

- *Premier Jours*, a posthumous NFB film by Clorinda Warry, completed by Suzanne Gervais and Lina Gagnon, was awarded first prize in the first films category.

Film companies join forces

A major Hollywood studio and a Canadian film company have entered into a three-year multiple picture production-distribution agreement.

Under the terms of the pact, Twentieth Century Fox of Hollywood and ICC-International Cinema Corporation of Montreal will jointly develop, produce and finance a number of projects for distribution by Fox, while on other projects Fox will act as distributor for films wholly-financed by ICC.

"We regard our agreement with ICC as a highly significant development with far-reaching effects," said Twentieth Century president Norman Levy. "This is the first time that a major Hollywood company has committed its resources to a long-term production and distribution arrangement that will stimulate Canada's growth as an important force in worldwide film-making," he said.

Arts briefs

Bad Timing, a British film exploring the murky area between love and hate, was named the most popular film at the recent Toronto International Film Festival. The film, selected on the basis of voting by festival-goers, was directed by Nicholas Roeg and stars Art Garfunkel and Theresa Russell. During the ten-day festival, 157 feature-length films and more than a dozen shorts from 30 countries were screened.

RSL films of Montreal has acquired the motion picture rights to Mordecai Richler's latest novel *Joshua Then and Now*. The novel is Richler's first in nine years. Richler, author of eight novels and several screenplays, will write the script, which is scheduled for filming next fall. *Joshua Then and Now* marks RSL's fourth film project based on a Canadian novel. The films are *Suzanne*, written by Ronald Sutherland; *In Praise of Older*

Women, by Stephen Vizinczey; and *Agency*, by Paul Gottlieb.

Robin Phillips will resign his position as artistic director of the Stratford Festival effective November 1980. The board of governors of the festival has authorized a directorate comprising four artists to succeed Mr. Phillips. They are: Urjo Kareda, Pam Brighton, Martha Henry and Peter Moss.

The National Film Board's *Going the Distance* won the gold medal for documentary in the first Commonwealth Film and Television Festival held recently in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Canadian actor-director, Al Waxman, has been signed by Astral Film Productions Limited to work on two features over the next 12 months. Waxman will co-ordinate all current post-production work on *Tulips*, in which he also has a starring role, and will direct a feature film at a later date, Astral President Harold Greenberg has announced.