

Picture Plant presses on with "Stations"

by Ken Burke

About two weeks ago, you might have spotted yet another notice tacked up around Dal advertising for actors auditions. Well, closer inspection showed that something interesting was indeed going on in the form of a feature film entitled **Stations**.

The producer is Halifax's own **Picture Plant** production company.

I had seen the first (and only other) feature film that Picture Plant had made, **Aerial View**, and despite a hackneyed plot, it was very good for a first, low-low budget movie.

The prospect of another film by the same people brought an article very similar to the one that you're reading to mind.

As a result, this intrepid reporter caught individual Producer Chris Majka for an interview on the movie-to-be last Thursday to find out what was happening.

I discovered first of all that I had just gotten a hold of him in the nick of time. This was not a pre-production lull, filming had already started (on Oct. 17th) and Majka was leaving Halifax the next day to join the rest of the crew on location.

The ad I had seen at Dal had been for extras during the last week of shooting. The main roles were cast months before, as well as the crew (of course).

Majka informed me that hopefully, shooting would be finished by November 28th and then post-production work could begin.

After this crash course on the hectic birthing of a motion picture, I began to appreciate just what a concentrated feat a film really is.

One thing I realized during the interview was the large number of Newfoundland actors working on the movie - one Michael Jones as the lead - which is not surprising considering the plot of the film. It deals with a Newfoundlander living in Vancouver named Tom Murphy (played by Jones) who is forced to come to terms with his breaking with tradition, both his Newfoundland tradition and his religion.

Much of the action takes place on a train trip across Canada when Murphy is on an assignment as a successful television journalist. During this journey Murphy interviews "average" Canadians, examining the idea of Canada. It is during the trip that Murphy realizes who he is and what he wants to be. At the film's end he is finally taking steps towards this goal.

While there are plenty of opportunities for the movie to roll over into the muck of local cliched mythologies, producer Majka believes that the film will resist any such opportunities and provide a more universal statement about the attitudes of people in the Atlantic region.

"Local cinema doesn't have to be self-limiting", he observed. He pointed to the Quebec film scene and Australia's recent films as examples of a cinema rooted in local culture with universal appeal.

The people responsible for making the film a success artistically, Director William MacGillivray and Cinematographer Lionel Simmons, are not newcomers to the film business. In addition to lists of individual achievements, they have written, and served as director and cinematographer for the film **Aerial View**, which won the "Certificate of Merit" at the Chicago Film Festival.

I personally found **Aerial View's** story weak and oversimplified, but it was visually stunning at times and excellently put together. It was so well made that I had a sense of pride that it was a Halifax product and recognisable as one.

Stations is likely to equal or exceed **Aerial View's** professionalism with MacGillivray and Simmons returning, along with a solid core of people from **Aerial View** such as actors Michael Jones and Joel Sapp and Associate Producer and Business manager Gordon Parsons. So don't expect a shoddy amateurish production.

Once location shooting is finished (taking place in Vancouver, Montreal, Saskatchewan, Truro, North Sidney, St. John's, and Halifax) and the film has been completed, Picture


Plant plans to give the film a strong push immediately, entering it in as many festivals as possible for exposure and sales, after it has its premiere in Halifax.

Majka believes that this expo-

sure is necessary, not only to sell a film, but to promote an "indigenous cinema" for this region and Canada. With exposure, he feels that Canada will produce more world-class films speaking with a Canadian voice

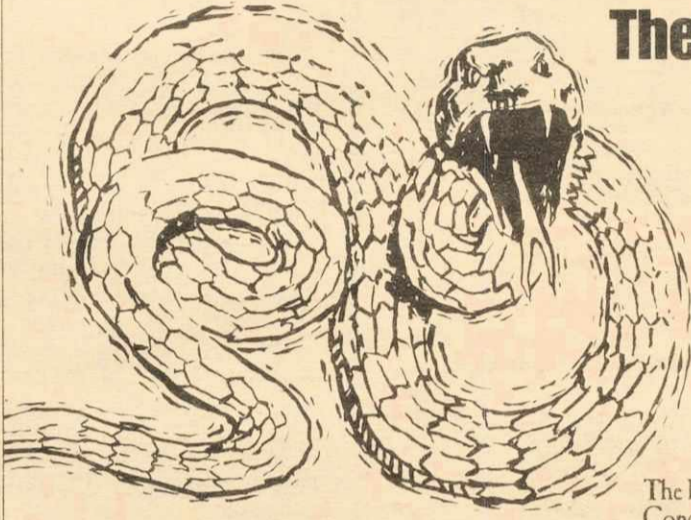
to Canadians and the world.

Until it's finished, we won't know whether or not **Stations** is such a film, but as for myself, I'm hoping that it is good enough to support it on its merit, not by patriotic charity.




YUKON JACK ATTACK #1.

The Snake Bite.



Release 2 fluid ounces of Yukon Jack, a dash of juice from an unsuspecting lime, tumble them over ice and you'll have skinned the Snake Bite. Inspired in the wild, midst the damnably cold, this, the black sheep of Canadian liquors, is Yukon Jack.



Yukon Jack

The Black Sheep of Canadian Liquors.
Concocted with fine Canadian Whisky.

Does anyone but your mother know you are talented?



If yes, we are looking for you.

Thurs Nov 5

Enter the annual

Grawood Talent Night

Applications available in the Grawood, the Enquiry Desk and Rm. 212 SUB

Grand prize \$100
Deadline for entries Oct. 31



MUSIC LESSONS BEGIN

* JAZZ, CLASSICAL and FOLK GUITAR *
* FLUTE * MANDOLIN *
* AUTOHARP * RECORDER *
(DAY & NIGHT)

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF DALHOUSIE & ST. MARY'S

HALIFAX FOLKLORE CENTRE

WARRANTY ON ALL INSTRUMENTS SOLD

1528 Brunswick St.
Halifax, N. S.
Canada
Ph. (902) 423-7946

JUST OFF SPRING GARDEN ROAD

NO REGISTRATION FEES
PRIVATE & GROUP TUITION
RENTAL/PURCHASE PLANS