

Animated Film Festival in Ottawa



The only North American international animation festival — the Ottawa 88 International Animation Festival — was held at the National Arts Centre from October 5 to 9. Approximately 300 animators participated in the festival, which featured 100 films chosen by jury from over 600 entries. The festival included animated films for children and a popular series of evening screenings for the general public.

The competitive aspect of the festival attracted some of the world's best animators from countries that included the United States, France, Holland, East Germany, the Soviet Union, Mexico and Spain. The festival also featured retrospectives of major studios such as Bulgaria's Sophia Animation Studio. About half of the animated films shown were made in Canada.

A joint Canadian-Chinese production, *The Nightingale* was featured at the International Animation Festival in Ottawa.

One of five such festivals in the world that take place in France, Yugoslavia, Japan and China, Ottawa 88 was funded by the Ottawa firms Crawleys International Inc. and Hinton Animation Studios, Inc.; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC); the National Film Board; as well as all three levels of government.

Ottawa hosted the festival four times between 1976 and 1982; then it moved to Toronto and later to Hamilton. This year, the biennial event returned to Ottawa, where its organizers in the Canadian Film Institute hope it will remain.

Canada Creates the Right Atmosphere

At Canada's initiative, more than 300 scientists, politicians and policymakers from more than 40 countries met in Toronto, June 27 to 30, to exchange ideas at a conference entitled, *The Changing Atmosphere — Implications for Global Security*.

The Toronto meetings allowed scientists to piece together a mosaic of information from the research being done in many different countries. The sessions also increased awareness among politicians and decision-makers of the need for global action to cope with the consequences of climatic shifts.

Canadian Environment Minister Tom McMillan drew attention to Canada's continuing concern about global environmental issues, from participation in the United Nations' 1987 *Brundtland Report*, through the 1987 Montreal Ozone Protocol, to Canada's sponsorship of the 1988 Toronto conference, that in turn will lead to Canada's 1989 conference on the Law of the Atmosphere.

"I am pleased to support the vital work of the Brundtland commission through this conference," said McMillan. "We hope that it will represent a major step towards the development of an international strategy to protect the global atmosphere."

A Prize Performance

Two young competitors, one from Britain and one from Denmark, danced away with the Eric Bruhn prize on the night of May 14 in Toronto. They were tops in this new international competition for young dancers. The prize is worth \$15 000, but for the dancers there was much more than money on the line.

Toronto's O'Keefe Centre was sold out. The event: an international ballet competition for young dancers, all under the age of 26. Eight dancers came from the Royal Ballet in England, the American Ballet Theatre, the Royal Danish Ballet, and the National Ballet of Canada. They were competing for the first annual Eric Bruhn prize. It was a celebration of youth, from a man who worked to promote young dancers. Eric Bruhn directed each of the four companies represented at the competition, and when he died two years ago at age 57, he left a trust fund to support the prize.

Under the rules of the competition, the dancers competed as individuals rather than as teams. The two winners — Errol Pickford of Britain's Royal Ballet and Rose Ged Poulsen of the Royal Danish Ballet — will split the \$15 000 prize.

The Eric Bruhn competition gives young dancers a chance to turn hard work into glory on a world stage. It also provides an opportunity to thank a dedicated Canadian who touched many dancers' lives, inspired their work and gave them a future.