

# MEET TIJU LEEK

## a canadian star

**A**t the International Film Festival in New Delhi recently were screened two Canadian feature films, *Between Friends*, a private production, directed by Don Shebib and *Why Rock The Boat?*, a National Film Board of Canada presentation directed by John Howe. The NFB also presented three shorts—'Modulo', 'Hunger' and 'Cat's Cradle'. National Film Board Asian Representative Anthony Kent here talks to Miss Tiju Leek, the visiting star of *Why Rock The Boat?*, who attended the festival in New Delhi. She also opened the film festival in Bangalore with the film and presented it at the Bombay film festival.

**Anthony Kent :** Tiju, this is your first visit to India. Tell us your first impressions, please.

**Tiju Leek :** Well, I'm very impressed. I came not knowing anything, and I think I have learnt more in a month's stay here in terms of history, culture, tradition, the way people live, than I ever did studying history in school. It's been a marvellous education. Everyone is so eager to help you learn, to show you things, to help you understand what's happening. It's this person-to-person contact with Indians which impressed me most.

**AK:** Assuming you had no previous contact with Indian cinema, have you had the chance during this visit to gain any impressions of what's happening in the film world here?

**TL:** Well, I think it's more Hollywood than Hollywood ever was. The fact that 65% of a film's budget is salaries paid to the stars and music directors is just absolutely incredible. It's unbelievable that they would pay that kind of money. The transition from the grand days of Hollywood has taken so many years. I wonder

if the same number of years will be required for India to get out of this star system.

**AK:** If the opportunity came to act in an Indian film, would you accept?

**TL:** Oh, of course I would, I would grab the chance to do that.



*Anthony Kent talks  
to Tiju Leek in  
New Delhi.*