CAPITAL FILM SOCIETY OFFERS SEX, CONTROVERSY AND COMICS

by Janice McConnell
Brunswickan Entertainment

Controversial films are the highlight of this years Capital Film Society lineup. The season's first film is the banned-in-many-places UK film, **Priest**, which explores a gay priest coping with his sexuality. **Kids**, the fall season finale, is the shocking, day-in-the-life-of teenage sex flic from New York which features non-professional teenage actors in 24 hours of unprotected sex, drugs and hanging out.

"Our mandate is a simple one: to show alternative films," said Prof Barry Cameron of the English department, who organises the Society. "We want to show film on the edge, film that would not otherwise come here."

The Society specializes in presenting contemporary alternative films that are not mainline Hollywood films, the type of film that used to be called 'art-house'. This includes Canadian and New Brunswick films which are usually seen as being alternative and do not receive wide exposure.

Cameron is also President of the Atlantic Independent Cinema Exhibitors and thus is in charge of selecting not only the films shown at the Capital Film Society but also those to be shown at cinemas in St Johns, Wolfville, and Sackville. The multiple showings of the films give more pull when dealing with distributors.

'Cinefile', a not-for-profit education/information oriented half hour TV show, will be broadcast on ASN beginning this Sunday. The show will focus on film culture in Atlantic Canada, exploring production issues and interviewing filmmakers. Panel discussions will tackle topics like the place of film and video in movie production.

"We haven't done a TV show from UNB for 20 years," said Cameron.

The show will be produced and hosted by Cameron himself in connnection with his production company, Cinefile Productions.

The UNB-Cinefile co-production will prepare the entire show and hand the finished product to ASN. The project has been in the works for four years, this year the English Department and ASN finally got around to finalizing arrangements.

"We worked through Maritime Higher Education but we get a budget from UNB," said Cameron. "We will try to do it as professionally as we can."

A new degree program, Multimedia Studies is under development at the moment in the Faculty of Arts. The degree will explore media, including film and video, and work on computers. There is already a Fine Arts minor in film available as part of the BA program. There are presently two students beginning the minor. Twelve students have gone through the program in the last two years.

"The issue is in designing and developing," said Cameron. "It is in the developmental stages. There are still a lot of hoops that have to be jumped through."

Students who are interested in learning about film hands-on can become members of the NB Film Co-op. The Co-op will be having abbreviated workshops in the fall, as a number of people who form the core of the Co-op are busy with their full-time jobs, several teaching at the new Video Production program at Woodstock College. The Co-op will be focusing on completing 12 small films that have been in the works for some time.

New Brunswick should soon have a Film Development Corporation, according to Cameron New Brunswick is one of three provinces in Canada without an organization which handles distributing production money for broadcasting and more substantial work.

Films are already an on-going industry in New Brunswick. A feature film is being shot this fall at Kings Landing and has been pre-sold to PBS. It is a docu-drama about an American mid-wife.

"It will employ a lot of people from New Brunswick, both in front and behind the camera," said Cameron, in support of the production.

Cameron discussed the accessiblity of foreign and alternative videos locally.

"With Video Plus closing we are going to be in trouble in Fredericton for videos," commented Cameron. "You knew if you went there that you would get something interesting."

Video Plus had also automatically carried every film being shown by the Society.

"People not getting their 'dose' might come to the Capital Film Society, so it might benefit us," said Cameron, "but in other years it was a complement to it."

Films this Fall:

September 18: **Priest** — The controversial, banned in many places account of the trial of Father Greg (Linus Roaches) who struggles with his sexuality as a gay priest and the confessional vow of silence which prevents him from righting a horrible wrong.

September 25: **The Postman** — A sweet and charming film about the people's poet of Chile, Pablo Neruda (Philippe Noiret) who arrives on the island of Capri where he teaches the man who delivers the mail the magic of words

October 2: **Burnt by the Sun** — A Russian film directed by Nikita Mikhalkov which depicts the last days of freedom of a Soviet hero about to disappear in one of Stalin's purges.

October 9: **Once Were Warriors** — Sucks viewers into Aukland's low-rent district focusing on a Maori woman's family life raising her five children with her violent and abusive husband. A must-see.

October 23: **Eclipse** — Directed by Canadian film maker Jerry Podeswa, this film follows a revolving wheel of stray passions in a city quietly catching eclipse fever.

October 30: **When Night Is Falling** — An exultant lesbian love story which recounts the love story between a Calvinist college prof and a circus performer. Directed by Canadian Patricia Rozema, the film has moments of breath taking magic.

November 6: **Crumb** — A mesmerizing portrait of the underground comic-book artist Robert Crumb and his unusual family which gives new meaning to the term "dysfunctional".

November 13: **Smoke** — Smoke is a low-key film about a cigar store in Brooklyn run by Harvey Keitel and the neighbourhood interacting in subtle ways. It is considered this summer's smartest movie.

November 20: **Belle de Jour** — Catherine Deneuve is a unfulfilled young bourgeois wife who finds satisfaction working in a brothel. The film, directed by Luis Bunuel, occupies a timeless space that looks like contemporary France with beautiful autumnal colours and fantasy sequences of inelegant degradation.

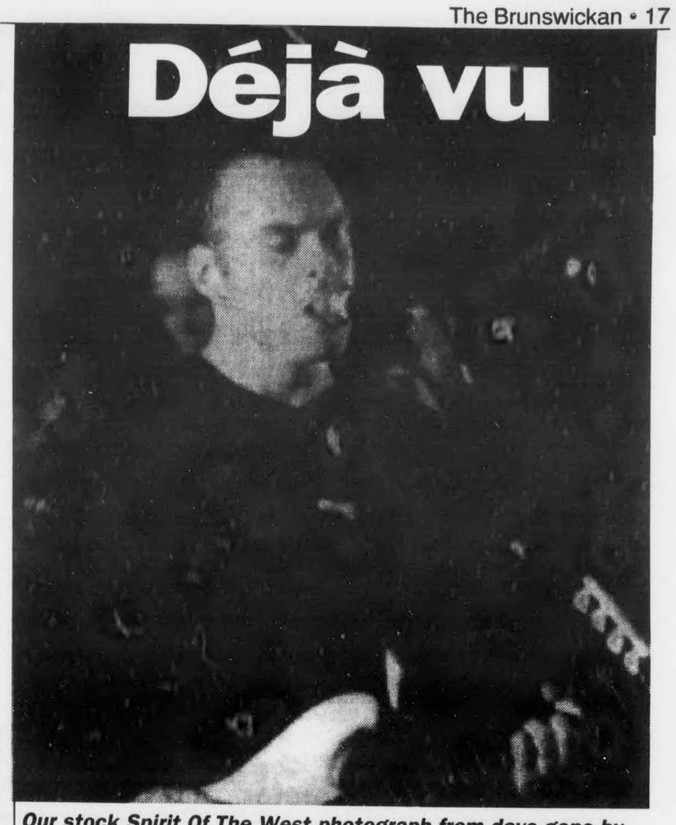
November 27: **Vanya on 42nd Street** — This film uses the extraordinary power of acting to crate illusion without sets, costumes or Russian dachas. This is an imposing production of Uncle Vanya neer seen live by a paying audience but organized in workships by Gregory and Wallace Shawn, who plays Vanya.

December 4: **Eldorado** — A snapshot of Montreal in heat, it follows six young people through a round of arguments and sex, betrayals and philosophy. Many moments of spontaneous beauty. The movie *Love and Human Remains* should have been.

December 11: **Kids** — The notorious film that was the talk of Sundance has a non-professional cast of teenage New Yorkers which spend 24 hours of unprotected sex, smoking up, and hanging out. The explicit scenes of sex have nothing to do with romantic angst.

(with thanks to Barry Cameron and the Capital Film Society for providing details of the films in advance)

Déjà vu



Our stock Spirit Of The West photograph from days gone by. Photo by Kent Rainville.

by Peter J. Cullen
Brunswickan Entertainment

It was a dark and stormy night. I was at a friend's apartment watching Star Trek and drinking cranberry juice when suddenly the phone rang. We were informed that we had been misinformed—the Spirit of the West show was taking place not on Saturday, as we had believed, but that very evening. As much as I admire Geordi La Forge, SOTW seemed much more appealing.

As soon as we touched down on the arena floor, the members of Spirit of the West took the stage. The crowd cheered and I along with them. Then it occurred to me—I could only name about 3 of the band's songs. I was afraid I was going to suffer from 'the noise factor'; if I have not heard much of a band's music before, it just comes across as noise in concert. But I had heard Spirit of the West many, many times in other people's houses and other people's apartments and other people's tree forts. I had a genuine liking for the band and began edging ever so slowly through the massive throng of students and UNB wannabes as SOTW erupted into a rhythmic introduction. This was followed by the popular "And If Venice Is Sinking." As the last chord was struck the crowd roared with admiration for the band. However, lead singer John Mann did not reciprocate approval for the crowd. "I'm disgusted with the level of male energy in here," he proclaimed in his response to the crowd surfing. The girls cheered at this. So did the energetic males.

20 seconds into the next song, Mann claimed his first victim, ejecting him into the rainy street for crowd surfing. Everyone roared approval at this (except the guy who got kicked out—he just plain roared). Apologising, Mann continued with the show and I began stupidly jumping up and down with the rest of the people. After the fifth song, I began conversing with the crowd. A good rule of thumb—concerts become much more exciting when you begin talking to people. A better rule of thumb—concerts become much more exciting when the people don't ignore you and actually reply to your shoutings. I encountered Green Bandanna Boy, Body Pierced Girl, and Weed Man (not the lawn care guy). After several short discussions, I returned my attention to the people on stage. Although I did not recognise the current song, I realised how impressive this young band really is. Then I realised that this young band was not really that young. As the concert seemed to repeatedly reach its peak, the ultimate drinking song commenced. "Home For a Rest" churned the kiddies into a wild, sweaty, smelly frenzy. And the show did not wind down with the encore as is the general custom. The concert's culmination featured guest vocalists, a how-high-can-you-pull-up-your-pants-contest, and a dramatic beer chugging by the percussionist (kids, don't body surf, but hey! drinking is cool!).

As the herd dawdled out of the building and back into the dark and stormy night, I came to the conclusion that SOTW is cool. SOTW is energetic. SOTW is an immensely popular band as they have appeared on the UNB campus 5 times in the past 4 years and always receive great crowd support. And as I wandered home, it occurred to me that I had locked myself out of my apartment. It also occurred to me that I should buy Spirit of the West's new *Two Headed* CD to show my support. Because, dammit, I knew at least 6 songs at that concert! And a good time was had by all. Another good rule of thumb, though—bring your own cranberry juice. They don't sell it at the door.

COMPETITION TIME!
(again...)

This week we have a whole bunch of CDs to give away thanks to those awfully nice people at MCA. The first three people to answer the following question can have their pick from the new albums by Teenage Fanclub, the Ramones and That Dog (to name but a few). And the questions is -

Which country do Teenage Fanclub come from?

Here's a clue. I come from there too. That should help you out. And we still have TWO copies of Die Cheerleader's album *Son Of Filth* to give away. Just answer the question in last week's paper, or some other question you think of and drop the answers off into Room 35 of the SUB by 5pm on Tuesday and you can win yourself some music for nothing. Free. Gratis. Easy as that.