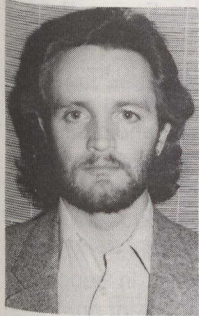


## Animated short film and make-up artist win Oscar awards

Canadians Jon Minnis and Paul LeBlanc won Oscar awards in the fifty-seventh annual Academy Awards presentation in Los Angeles, California for their contributions to the film industry in 1984. The awards were presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on March 25.



Jon Minnis

Jon Minnis, currently an animator with Michael Mills Productions in Montreal, received the award in the animated short film category for his absurdly funny four-and-a-half minute film, *Charade*.

The film centres on two characters, both of whom are individually attempting to act out movie and book charades to an unseen, but vocal audience. The first character has no luck at all, despite his easy subjects and perfect clues that defy all laws of nature. The second character scores every time, even though his clues have nothing to do with the subject he is relating.

As the film progresses, the conflict builds between the first character and the audience, as he is frustrated time after time. Meanwhile, the second character can do no wrong. Finally, losing his self control, the first character attempts to insult the audience but they again misinterpret his actions and leave him in a state of disbelief.

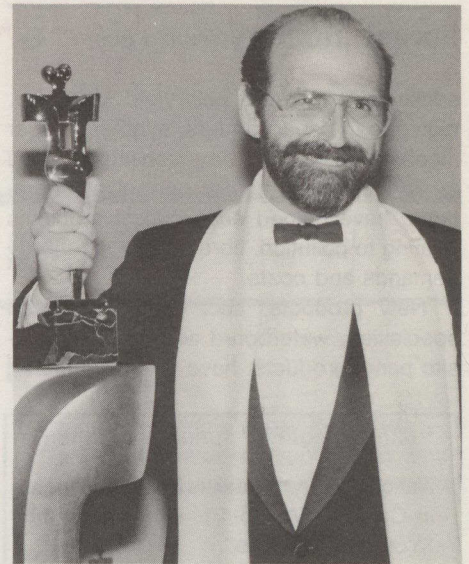
The \$300-film was made by Jon Minnis in 1983 when he was a graphic artist studying to be a filmmaker at Sheridan College's international summer animation school in

Oakville, Ontario. The third year project was Jon Minnis' first film.

Jon Minnis has also won a number of other awards for *Charade* including the 1984 Canadian Independent Short Film Showcase Award, the 1984 best first film award at the International Festival of animation in Toronto and the best animated film and best first production awards from the Canadian Film and Television Association. The film also received a Genie from the Academy of Canadian Cinema — the Canadian equivalent of the Oscar — for best theatrical short.



*Charade's second character has instant success with his audience as they guess difficult titles like The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Quotations after he strikes a strange pose that has nothing to do with the subject he is relating.*

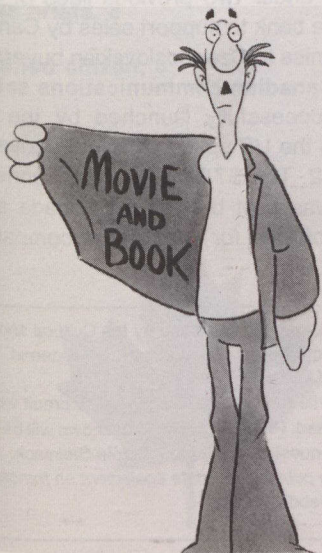


Paul LeBlanc receives a special Genie award for hair and make-up design.

Hair designer and make-up artist Paul LeBlanc won an Oscar for the fanciful hair and make-up he created for *Amadeus*, the fictional account of Mozart's life which won eight Oscars including best picture.

Paul LeBlanc was the first hair stylist in the Academy's history to win an Oscar. The native of Dieppe, New Brunswick, shared the make-up Oscar for *Amadeus* with veteran Hollywood make-up artist Dick Smith who did Salieri's aging make-up, while Paul LeBlanc was responsible for the 800 wigs, cast hair, and make-up.

Paul LeBlanc also won a Genie from the Academy of Canadian cinema for his contribution to make-up and hair design in the film industry. Other film credits for him include *The Black Stallion*, for whom he falsified a mane, *The Return of the Jedi* and *Places in the Heart*.



*The first character acting out charades is not able to convey the names of the movies and books, like Jaws or Dracula, that he is acting out, despite the easy subjects and perfect clues that defy the laws of nature.*

