Edmontonian becomes one of

Gateway interviewer Michaleen Marte-Elabdi talked to Edmonton actress Paully Jardine just prior to the opening of her film Summer's Children.

The story was "local girl makes good" last Saturday at the Princess Theatre. Paully Jardine watched herself on the big screen and was warmly received by friends, family and critics in her hometown. It was a time of marvellous irony. The screening of Paully's first film was in a theatre near the neighborhood she lived in as a child.

The day before the showing Paully was visibly nervous. Her hair was cut for the role of a policewoman in a new production with ACCESS television. She spoke of the problems of the part of Aunt Harriet in a children's television program with the same station. We had coffee and talked of her career and somewhat reluctantly, of the premiere.

The film Summer's Children, had

already premiered a year ago in eastern Canada. Up until now she had been the only one in Edmonton who had seen it. She began almost immediately to deny any excitement about it. Her acting in her mind was not excellent. Yet she was grateful to her parents for spons ring the private showing. The event, she remarked, is the nearest she would get to a wedding celebration. She was glad for

Paully said she had always assumed that she would be an actress one day. As a child she managed and acted in many neighborhood productions. The group specialized in dramatizing tales of the Brothers Grimm. Paully credits her own marketing sense at this time. She always sold advance tickets so that refreshments could be sold at the perfor-

Paully remained in Scona School until she was 16. She then went to Vancouver and studied for three years. At 19, an urge to move elsewhere came. Paully received an invitation to attend the Stanislovsky Acting School in New York. In order to raise a lot of money in little time Paully worked as a stripper at night an an actor in a puppet theatre by day. Yet she ended up in Toronto instead of new York, joining the Theatre Passe Muraille.

Passe Muraille was the beginning of Paully's professional career as a dramatic actress. She toured Canada with the West Show, conveniently cast as a token Westerner. It was at Passe Muraille that she met Donna Gruhlke, who would later be a partner in the co-created production, *The True Story of* Ida Johnson.

In 1977 Paully returned to Edmonton and developed her own writing abilities. She was guided by Rudy Wiebe

in one of his creative writing classes.

In the summer of 1978 Paully and Donna created The True Story of Ida

> Johnson, a very significant project in Paully's life. t was a dramatization of a story written by Sharon Rieve of Lac La Biche. it was originally conceived as a one-woman show, but was finally broken into two characters. Paully and



Jardine

Donna played the roles of Ida and Lucy. The play concerns two women who were once childhood friends, who have gone separate ways in their lives, but meet by chance one night and are forced to rediscover themselves.

In August 1979 Paully helped to create and direct *Inner Cities*, a unique production not only in concept but in actual performance. It took place in a downtown alley around 102 Street and 100 Avenue. "Inner Cities was my first theatre hit," Paully says. Although seating capacity was limited in the lane, the play was sold out for two nights.

Before Inner Cities Paully returned to Toronto. In a short time she was cast in the film Summer's Children as Jenny, the sister of Steve (played by Ben Tauf).

Paully spent a total of ten days on the set. The film was shot entirely in Toronto and took two months to

complete.

"Initially I was impressed by Jim Osborne's screenplay," Paully says. Yet she had some criticism of the direction and filming methods. She felt her character came out very flat and emotionless, the acting was purposely made wooden. Paully she she feared the film gave a very impersonal view of a subject that should be explored in great

The subject of the film is the bond of love between a brother and sister. It examines their escape to Toronto from a small Ontario town and a broken

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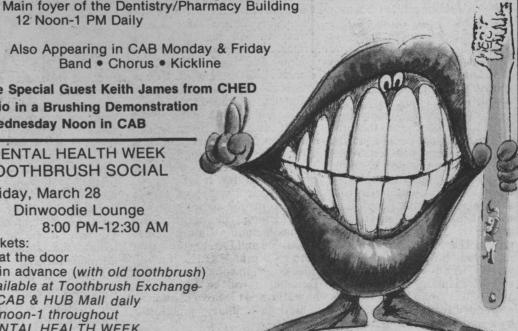
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