

Another book of travelling truths

by Angel Figueroa

'I'd wasted my time at Cambridge. My main exertion had been ways of hiding that fact from tutors. That's how I learned to write, but in those days I could never have made a living as a writer. Apart from essay assignments (which often strayed into fiction) I wrote poetry — a non-starter of a career — and everything I sent out came back.'

So begins *Home And Away*, Ronald Wright's fifth book, a wonderful collection of sketches and commentary that is testament to his stature among Canada's best writers in non-fiction. *Home And Away* is

unique in that it is Wright's first anthology, comprising both previously published articles and entries

BOOKS
Home And Away
Ronald Wright
Alfred A. Knopf

specifically written for the book. On the heels of his critically-acclaimed *Stolen Continents: The New World Through Indian Eyes Since 1492*, Wright is again both the traveller and historian: written in crystal clear English, it has as its greatest virtue the versatility of being at once extremely entertaining as well as historically informative.

Ranging from the serious to the fickle are eighteen entries spanning different continents, diverse subjects, and various chapters of Wright's life as wanderer and observer. The first chronicles his debut stint as traveller, a young archaeology student on a transatlantic tanker and heading to an Aztec excavation. From partying till sick with the Mexican captain to tripping over lawn gnomes in rural England, where he returns to his native soil as a middle-aged man, we discover the ineffable spirit of travelling that Wright is famous for, and in the process we also get bits and pieces of revealing autobiography.

As *Home and Away* is indeed an

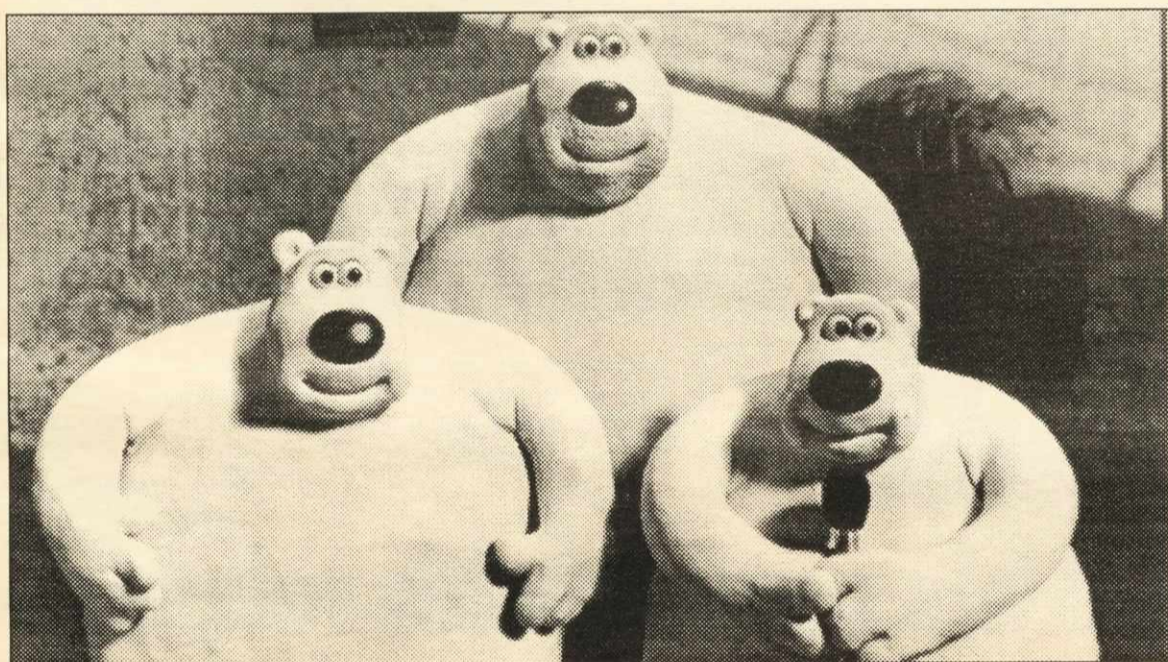
engaging, personal work, it comes through in the title, implying a confession. That Wright is a naturalized Canadian with a stunted English accent, leaving him both a foreigner in his new country as well as old, it lends itself to being the dispassionate, but sincere, commentator more at home in his travels than at *domus* in either England or Canada.

With masterful prose, observation and insight mix to deliver compelling pieces of political commen-

tary, historical anecdotes, and lucid travel sketches. Wright takes us to the Andes, where Inca myth and the legacy of the Conquest surface in a fight between a bull and a condor; to Fiji, where conversations with a retired airline steward of European/Fijian origin and a Hindu taxi driver outline the social dynamics of a racially divided island; to a packed bar in Grenada, where a partying mob

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Animation festival fun



by Mark Farmer

Don't be confused. As the name implies, *The Best of the International Tournee of Animation* shows some of the best animation (in the opinion of those tournee-people) from the last 17 years of these tournees. In other words, you've probably seen some of these before if you've ever been to an animation festival.

But hold on, tournee-lovers, that doesn't mean you shouldn't go. Ha! Far from it! A lot of these shorts are worth seeing again and a lot I've never seen before. We've got stuff from England, Hungary, Holland, the ex-USSR, Germany, etc., etc.

Creature Comforts is an old favourite that uses interviews with claymation zoo critters to make a point about captivity. *Face Like a Frog* is a jumpy, musical, wiggled-out tale (OK — they're all wiggled-out tales) of a journey into a haunted house.

There are also darker, surreal pieces like *Balance*, the best animated short film at the 1989 Academy Awards. Imagine a plane in the middle of an abyss. Five pale, angsty, androgenous figures live on it, and have to rush from corner to corner to keep their flat little world balanced. Then a mysterious box appears....

I especially liked *Door*, which is so rich and complex it must've taken about a bazillion years to shoot. It uses stop-action animation, actors and a Tom Waits-like voice-over to take you through a world of doors.

And yes, *The Cat Came Back* is here again if you haven't already seen it a dozen times. So are *Ren & Stimpy*. Hoorah.

So go and take a gawk. It'll be

worth it even if you've already seen a couple of them.

The Best of the International

Tournee of Animation is playing at Wormwood's Dog & Monkey Cinema on Gottingen St., April 1 - 7.



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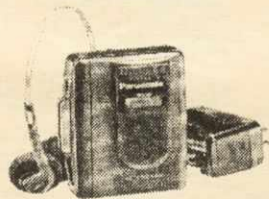
Fri Sat

STICK NO BILLS

Panasonic End of Year CLEAR - OUT!

Music Stop Home Electronics is reducing prices on all Panasonic makes and models to make room for the new 1995 models! Here are a few examples...

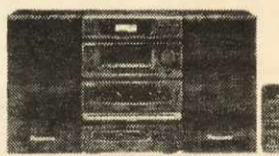
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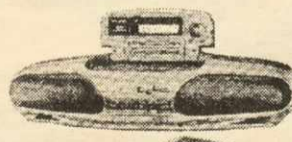
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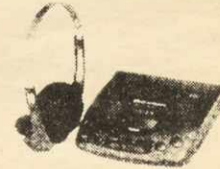
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