

News of the arts

Canada's feature film industry — a year of growth

The past 12 months has been a year of tremendous growth for Canada's feature film industry. In the 1978-79 fiscal year, a total of \$76 million was invested in the production of feature films. The Canadian Film Development Corporation advanced \$7.8 million toward production during this time which resulted in some \$46-million worth of film production. Thirty-million dollars worth of feature production was produced without CFDC assistance. About \$1.2 million of the total amount advanced by the CFDC went towards Quebec productions, which had a combined budget of some \$7.5 million. Among recently completed Quebec productions are *Thetford au milieu de notre vie*, *Eclair au chocolat* and *L'hiver bleu*.

Approximately 30 feature films were completed during 1978-79 and several of them have been picked up or are currently being considered for distribution in the U.S. by the American majors and major independent American distributors, among them: *Murder by Decree*, *In Praise of Older Women*, *Agency*, *The Brood*, *Meatballs*, *City on Fire*, *Wild Horse Hank*, *A Man Called Intrepid*, *Running* and *Old Fish Hawk*.

The CFDC is currently involved in the support and development of a variety of films which deal with Canadian themes, including: *The Falcon and The Ballerina*, by Jack Darcus, a vehicle for Karen Kain and the National Ballet; *Bond of Fear*, written by Peter Rowe about the B.C. prison riot that led to the death of Mary Steinhouse; *Surfacing*, written by Nika Rylyski, based on the popular novel by Margaret Atwood; *Child of the Holocaust* by Jack Kuper; *Long Lance* written by Allan King, based on the novel about a Canadian western hero; *Naples '44*, written by Martyn Burke, a story about Canadian soldiers in Italy after the war; *Riddler*, written by Jack Gray, a Canadian political thriller; *Eve*, written by Chuck Israel based on a Canadian novel set in Montreal involving conflict between two cultures; *Bill Miner*, written by Donald Brittain, a story based on the Canadian hero; *Snow Lark*, written by Robin Spry based on a popular novel dealing with English-French relations; *The Diviners*, written by Veneable Hurdon based on the popular novel by Margaret Lawrence.

Central opera service convention comes to Toronto

The Canadian Opera Company will serve as the host organization to more than 350 delegates attending the 1979 Central Opera Service National Conference, at the Park Plaza Hotel, Toronto, October 24-26. The annual Central Opera Service meeting is being held in a Canadian city for the first time in its 25-year history.

The theme of the three day conference is "Opera: A Newer World". Among issues to be addressed during the meeting are the role of government in the future of opera and new directions in opera production with emphasis on recent developments and innovations on the Canadian operatic scene.

Special events planned for conference delegates include a performance of the Canadian Opera Company's new production of *Tristan und Isolde*, the world premiere of Raymond and Beverly Pannell's *Refugees — A Vaudeville Opera*, a co-production of Co-Opera Theatre and Toronto Workshop Productions, a presentation by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, a luncheon address by contralto Maureen Forrester and a reception hosted by Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon of Ontario.

Landscapes exhibited in Montreal

The Landscape in Prints and Drawings, an exhibition covering four centuries of art, is being presented at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts until September 9.

The exhibition demonstrates how artists from various countries and different centuries have rendered space and light of imagined or real places, from Montmorency Falls, Quebec, to Venice. Sixty works covering the last four centuries are presented, starting with the seventeenth century, when landscape came to be considered valid subject matter in its own right.

Works from the following artists are shown: Rembrandt, Guerchino, (Claude) Lorrain, Gainsborough, Canaletto, Corot, Jacobi, Edson, Signac, Verner, Segonzac, Brymner, Morrice, Milne, Lismer, Varley, Fitzgerald, (Clarence) Gagnon and Onley. Also included is one work from the Japanese artist Hiroshige, who greatly influenced European art during the nineteenth century.

Musical version of "Duddy Kravitz"

The Stratford Festival will present a new musical version of Mordecai Richler's best-selling novel and highly successful film, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, in 1980.

The musical — to be titled *Duddy* — will be produced by the Stratford Festival in collaboration with Montreal impresario Samuel Gesser, who plans to tour the production at the close of the Stratford season.

Duddy will be financed in part by a grant from Imperial Oil Limited.

The book will be written by Mr. Richler, one of Canada's foremost authors, known for such other major novels as *St. Urbain's Horsemen* and *Cocksure* and for his short stories, essays and screenplays. His screenplay for *Duddy Kravitz* was nominated for an Oscar in 1975 and voted best comedy screenplay by the Writers' Guild of America the same year. The film also took Hollywood's Golden Globe Award that year and was voted a special honour as film of the year at the Canadian Film Awards presentation.

Arts briefs

The National Ballet of Canada has accepted an invitation to be the first Canadian company to perform at London's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The week of the performances (August 6-11) will be opened by a Royal Gala Performance, sponsored by Northern Telecom, whose proceeds will benefit the Covent Garden Development Fund. Other assistance for the Covent Garden season has been given by the Canadian Department of External Affairs and Canada House in London.

Cineplex, Toronto's 18-theatre complex located at the north end of the Eaton Centre, recently celebrated its gala opening. The complex, first of its kind in the world, is dedicated to the showing of foreign and limited distribution films on specially designed rear projection equipment. The owners have indicated plans to open similar facilities in Kitchener, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton.

Plans are underway to establish a Canadian Centre of Films for Children and Young People by Multilingual Television (Toronto) Ltd. The Canadian