

Entertainment

The Vancouver Sun

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B.C. AS A LOCATION SPOT

'Hollywood North' living up to its name

By LEE BACCUS

In the dead of night, sacks of Hobbit Hood flour disgained its cocoon and are loaded mysteriously on to a Deep Cove dock.

An alien spacecraft is found buried beneath some special ice at Stewart, B.C.

A wayward dog snow away about a ship in Vancouver and returns in its owner in Japan.

Two Indians coach Vancouver for the perfect man — to father a child they want to raise.

As, yes. That too. Last week West Coast life.

Actually, a parcel of some offbeat scenes from The Columbia Connection, The Thing, Star 80 and by De-Right, all films recently shot in B.C. or British Columbia, as well as other producers like to call the province.

The dedication is worthy in the sense that for the last two years (and likely this year) B.C. will stand third behind Hollywood and New York in film production.

During 1982 it is expected that more than \$60 million will be spent on film production in the province, double last year's figure.

"We're looking more films than we ever saw in our two-year history," says John Greene, director of the B.C. Film Promotion Office.

He says the \$60 million figure is a conservative estimate. It does not represent the non-studio production companies that live in and out of town, the local television production such as

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The Beethoveners, nor does it take into account the some \$100 million in B.C. film production in film advertising for the British Columbia Commission, which has recently been in a B.C. production for all.

Greene says that still was a bad year because of a major labor dispute in Hollywood.

"Nothing was moving out of Hollywood in the spring of last year," he says.

But this year's estimated crop should still make the province one of 1982, when B.C. raised \$12.3 million from production, and for above 1979, in which \$80 million was left in the province.

And there is a ripple effect on the economy, generating as much as \$10 for every dollar spent. That could mean a possible \$60 million boost for B.C.

The recent news drive by our dollar will help the industry here, but not as much as you might think.

Greene says producers in the U.S. are offered a 10 per cent tax credit on local film and make good use of it to the logistical problems of relocating north of the border.

But Greene feels his office, which operates within the ministry of tourism, is trying to get the producers



FILMING IN B.C.: Sylvester Stallone gets direction from Ted Kottcheff on set of First Blood

who are weighing possible film locations.

"We are the only film commission in North America that offers a budget breakdown to producers. We can show them exactly where they can save money by filming top B.C. and where services like we offer them," says John Greene.

The B.C. Film Promotion Office has a full-time staff of three and has an operating budget of \$200,000.

Greene says he is in negotiations to bring production three major films to the province within the next few months. He won't release the titles or companies involved "we're involved in sensitive negotiations over location," but he says their combined budgets should total close to \$60 million in B.C.

Film shot or to be shot in B.C. this year:

- *Bella Godebye* — a series pilot
- *Graduate of Malibu High* — sequel to Malibu High, a soft-core American Graffiti for the drive-in circuit.
- *Foreign Country* — a German film about two German immigrants who travel B.C. from Montreal to become singers.
- *Star 80* — The Dorothy Stratten story as directed by Bob Fosse.
- *Top Gun* — a Japanese TV drama episode from a Japanese TV drama series which is seen by 30 million people every week. The plot involves two detectives who search Canada from coast to coast for an escaped fugitive.
- *The Rutland* — a Canadian-French production about a modern-day prospector who goes on a wild search for gold. To be shot a few weeks from now at Fairmont Resort near New Westminster.

And now for some uncensored plots from the past:

- In October 1978, four members of a film crew shooting *Bear Island* are stranded for three days atop a 7,000-foot high glacier when led weathered events upon them.
- In February 1978, a film crew prepares to shoot the fiery climactic scene of *The Changeling* in a forest near George C. Scott. The shoot involves burning a physical model only a few feet from an actual South Vancouver mansion. The model burns as expected. The mansion also burns, as was not expected.
- In January, during shooting of *First Blood*, three break into a locked truck at Chehalis Dam and walk away with 47 real guns, including two sub-machineguns.
- "These kind of weapons in the wrong hands could be troublesome," an RCMP officer says.

• In February, again during a *First Blood* shoot, a wild four-wheeled 800-pound car (130 kilos on the metric scale) used to recreate the *Shogun* Stallone, escapes from its cage. It causes a freeway traffic jam and a fire-fighter's death. The car is subsequently towed and held in custody until RCMP officials arrive.

• *Winter Park* (made in February) — Take two. Shooting of the adventure drama is held off for days because of weather — sunny weather. Action for specific scenes were to take place in the rain.

• For the production of *The Columbia Connection*, a location lease is needed, so the company decides upon the easy surroundings of Deep Cove for filming. "Do they have log in Mexico?" asks one of the crew.

A familiar type of summer fantasy

By MARK ANDREWS

WOODY ALLEN has returned to comedy, but he's still carrying the torch for Swedish director Ingmar Bergman.

This statement is a bit odd, because it makes Allen sound like an imitator rather than the innovator he is. But literary and cinematic memories, two movies Allen made in his serious period, owed much to Bergman. And his new comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy*, remains one of Bergman's bedroom-farce comedies of *Summer Night*.

Both covers adults isolated on sprawling country estates, who fantasize about sexual dalliances.

The *Woody Allen* we see in this film is different from the lumbering klutz of *Bananas*, the neurotic *Playboys* of *Annie Hall* and *Martian*, the haughty, well-situated genius of *Stardust Memories*. The comedian era goes — except, of course, for sex well

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the public ever be ready for a sexually confident Allen? Not even that phobic Allen caricatures with rational conviction, stating: "Sex alleviates tension, love causes it."

The action takes place shortly after the turn of the century, as a single New York State resident, Andrew Allen and wife Adrian (Mary Steenburgen) plays her in two other couples. Adrian's cousin, Leopold, Jane Farrow, a married state professor, and his much younger sister, Ariel (Mia Farrow), and Andrew's friend Maxwell (Tony Roberts), a worshipping doctor, and his weekend date, the one-nightstand Daphne (Julia Roberts).



WOODY ALLEN, MARY STEENBURGEN: Sexual dalliances in the country

Andrew and Adrian are having trouble in the bedroom. Andrew and Ariel were once in love, although the affair wasn't fully one of Andrew's greatest regrets. Maxwell falls for Ariel. Leopold laments for Daphne and Adrian gives the theory that it's the quiet ones you must watch.

When they're not posing for or mistaking with one another, the characters are treated to Andrew's latest invention. One of these is a spirit hall that feeds on mental energy; their exposure to images of lovers embracing in the distant woods causes that all his players on that about about.

Like Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, the movie touches on sex and madness and the need in all of us to believe in forces of the spirit in this case. *Comedy*. It's not a profound film, nor is it as humorously funny as it merely offers easy humor for a summer night.

Rated mature. A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy is showing at the Capital & Hamilton Square and Willowbrook.

Composer cleared

TORONTO

Composer Harold Hardy and brother Jerry Todd did not steal another man's music for their songs *The Homecoming* and *Man from NIMH*, an Ontario Superior Court judge ruled Friday.

In a 64-page judgment, Mr. Justice Douglas Carruthers dismissed all claims made by Frank Lloyd Godwin that the musicians purloined part of his melody, *Variations On A Theme In A Minor*. Legal costs of the action also were awarded to Hardy and the Todds.

Carole Anne Godwin had continued the lawsuit started by her husband, who died last year of cancer at age 47. The suit claimed Hardy used *Variations On A Theme In A Minor* to compose *The Homecoming*, which was Hardy's first *Avatar* and a platinum record for selling more than 100,000 copies.

Godwin claimed he wrote his work in the late 1960s.

"I am prepared to find that all of the works have the required degree of originality necessary to give them a claim for copyright," Carruthers said in what is believed to be the first suit in Canada for musical plagiarism.

Canadian Press

Man from NIMH

Joe Bluth, the former Walt Disney animator who directed *The Secret of NIMH*, has been named as an international juror at the Vancouver International Film Festival for Children and Young People.

Bluth will conduct a workshop in classical animation at the festival, which will be held from Sept. 21 to Oct. 7.

The sixth *Man from NIMH* producer of the *Guerrilla* award-winning *Quiver* film, Les Brill Brothers and Chuck Connors have been named on the jury. The final two jury members have yet to be named.

Folk — a music that defies fickle trends

By NEAL HALL

THE B.C. folk music scene has been a hot spot over Jerrico Beach Park Friday — opening night of the fifth annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

But many a drop of rain fell on the 6,000-strong crowd who sang and danced the night away to a wide array of musical styles, everything from ancient Japanese drumming to Cajun, Celtic and country blues.

It was a condensed version of the international and regional musical fare offered today and Sunday at the festival — one that attracts an audience from all over North America, as the crowd plans to start in the parking lot indicated from Texas, Nova Scotia, Minnesota, Kansas and California.

The message was clear Friday night while the world may be expecting some tough times economically, it still has a vast wealth of music that remains unaffected by fickle trends.

A total of 11 acts dazzled the audience, beginning with the old-timey approach in contemporary western music by the Bushy Flower Band, and progressing on to the baroque and acoustic of feminist singer-songwriter Meg Christian.

Plans to get the crowd on its feet was the traditional Celtic music of Ireland's highly acclaimed Rory of the South, followed by an entertaining dash of traditional Scandinavian songs by the Swedish folk group, Norrland.

A moving performance by Quebec harmonica player Alain Lamontagne added another dimension to the art of singing — a sort of old world version of Shogun's Tom Connors.

And singer Teresa Van Zandt was in fine form Friday with his emotion-

ally country tunes. It was a hard act to follow, but the 15-piece Japanese drumming troupe Karyu Taiko did it, holding the crowd spellbound with its traditional playing of its traditional sacred oak drums.

The high point of the night came with Queen He and the New Tempus Cohort Band — a highly rhythmic mix of Celtic, blues, country and Cajun derived from the little tunes of the *Avatar* French who settled in and around New Orleans.

Queen He & Co., however, had to leave the audience hungry for more — and it's a worthwhile one.

Canadian singer-songwriter Stan Rogers, accompanied by fiddle, bass and guitar, wrapped up the evening with songs that the audience justifies in one — singing in the shadow of the city at the ocean edge.

During five hours, the crowd had been treated to an incredible sampling of musical styles and cultural traditions.

Amazingly enough, it was only the beginning of what promises to be the most successful festival to date — the weather keeps cooperating.

Monday in The Vancouver Sun

We'll continue our coverage of the fifth annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival at Jerrico Park.