



members of the "White Wampum" tribe of the Czech Republic from *IF ONLY I WERE AN INDIAN....*, directed by John Paskievich

CEL BEAULIEU, and veteran producer **ROCK DEMERS**. **LOUISE SPICKLER**, best known for her years spent at the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, has been appointed general director of the institute.

On another front, it will be interesting to see if the ongoing David and Goliath confrontation between Telefilm and Quebec's so-called "small" film festivals takes a new turn in the coming months. Last May, **FRANÇOIS MACEROLA** announced that Telefilm would gradually be cutting all funding to "smaller" film festivals across the country. This will save a ridiculously low portion of its budget (0.68 per cent). Seven Quebec festivals (including some of Canada's most respected and vitally important festivals such as Montreal's New Festival of Cinema, Video and New Technology and the Festival in Abitibi-Témiscamingue) formed a coalition to oppose this decision, in the hopes that they might add some weight to their individual pleas. Collectively, these festivals (with their emphasis on independent and international cinema) represent one of the last alternatives

to the ever-changing landscape of film distribution in this country and a viable alternative to the increasingly overwhelming presence of American movies. So far, Macerola has promised to examine each case separately, but only the next few months will tell us if a solution is found.

On a brighter note, despite all these cutbacks to our industry, film production in Quebec hasn't slowed down. Among others, veteran filmmaker **GILLES CARLE** is shooting *Pounding chomeur* in Montreal, **JOHN GREYSON** is directing a bilingual cast in *Lilies*, a film adaptation of Quebec's cult play *Les feluettes*, and **ROGER FRAPPIER**'s Max Films is wrapping up *Sous-sol*, a first feature by promising young filmmaker **PIERRE GANG**. All this while we wait for the next film by **DENYS ARCAND**, *Beautiful*, to be produced by **DENISE ROBERT** (*Le confessionnal*), and currently in development with Alliance Releasing.

HALIFAX

The 15th Annual Atlantic Film Festival

ELA

closed on a high note with a 40 per cent increase in attendance. Big winners included New Brunswick-born, Halifax-based director **MONIQUE LEBLANC**, who collected three awards—sound, cinematography and direction—for her National Film Board-produced feature documentary, *The Acadian Connection*. The NFB managed to pick up two additional awards (writing and art direction) for P.E.I.-based animator **JODEE SAMUELSON**'s children's environmental short, despite the fact that staff cuts have reduced NFB presence in the region by half.

FRANK SPINNEY, a carpenter by trade from the Annapolis Valley, won the Margaret Perry Award for best Nova Scotia film for his home-grown, 16mm feature *Nashville Sound*. A true independent, Spinney wrote, directed, produced, starred in, and most incredibly, financed the project completely from his own pocket. It's a charmingly naive buddy movie about four fortyish guys who reform their country band for a disastrous trip to Music City, U.S.A. *Nashville Sound* has best been described as "folk art filmmaking." Spinney, whose previous video feature *Is the King Really Dead?* sold almost 1,000 copies via local television advertising, is vowing to continue his grassroots movie revolution by touring *Nashville Sound* through rural areas while preparing a script for a third feature.

Newfoundland-born **WILLIAM D. MACGILLIVRAY** has returned to his home province to write and direct six half-hour comedies for national CBC broadcast early in 1996. *Gullages* is the series handle, short for Gullivers' Cabs, better known as "the killer cabs of St. John's." MacGillivray also has a feature documentary, *Face/The Landscape*, in the research stage and is developing an extraordinary script by the self-styled "Africadian" (African-Canadian from Acadia) poet **GEORGE ELIOTT CLARKE**.

Contributors: ALISON VERMEE in Vancouver, PATRICK LOWE in Winnipeg, ANGELA BALDASSARRE in Toronto, CLAIRE VALADE in Montreal and RON MACDONALD in Halifax.