

From Seat to Sea From VANCOUVER

is the first of such agreements with the former *Beverly Hills 90210* star. Other associations include Cineplex Odeon Films and the producers at Vanguard Entertainment to distribute Pamela Anderson Lee's (*Barb Wire*) next picture, *Naked Souls*. In production in and around Toronto this fall will be Dwight Little's *Executive Privilege* starring Wesley Snipes; Michael Ritchie's *The Fairy Godmother* starring Martin Short and Kathleen Turner; and Steve Zukerman's *North Shore Fish* with Mercedes Ruehl and Tony Danza. Recently completed filming here was Eriq LaSalle's (from television's *ER*) much-touted directorial debut, *Angel of Harlem* with James Earl Jones and Forrest Whitaker; John L'Ecuyer's (director of *Curtis's Charm*) *Men With Guns*; and Mark Lester's *Double Take* starring Craig Scheffer. ■

WINNIPEG

This summer Winnipeg got a taste of Dan Ackroydmania. Ackroyd hung out at several bars and cafés performing with local bands and signing autographs while in town to portray the Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian corporation making the Avro Arrow in *Once There Was an Arrow*. The *Arrow* project is a \$7.5-million two-part Movie-of-the-Week about the ill-fated attempt to build a supersonic airplane during the Diefenbaker era. Directed by Don McBreaty (*Butterbox Babies*) and co-produced by John Aaron Productions, FilmWorks and Tapestry Productions, this TV movie also stars Sara Botsford and Christopher Plummer and is slated for broadcast on CBC-TV at the end of January, 1997. While Ackroyd was celebrating his 44th birthday on Canada Day at a downtown street party, celebrated Winnipeg filmmaker Guy Maddin, was tucked away in an old warehouse in the north end of town working on his most ambitious film to date, *Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*. Shooting in 35mm for the first time, Maddin says he's aiming for the "painterly look of the 1930's French cinema, of Renoir and Ophuls...or *Love Boat*." Maddin describes *Ice Nymphs* as "an unrequited love story of three couples each chasing the other through luminous forests in a land ruled by underground powers." Production designer Réjean Labrie has done an amazing job of recreating a mythical world. Written by long-time Maddin collaborator George Toles, the cast includes R.H. Thomson, Pascale Bussi eres and Shelly Duvall. Budgeted at \$1.5-million and produced by Marble Island Pictures, *Ice Nymphs* is set for nine weeks of editing in August and September and will be distributed by Alliance. ■

***Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*; Director Guy Maddin says he's aiming for "the painterly look of the 1930's French cinema of Renoir and Ophuls...or *Love Boat*."**

Photo: Louise O'Brien Moran

The Vancouver International Film Festival will once again feature the best of Western Canadian independents in the Canadian Images program. Among the highlights will be Vancouver director Lynne Stopkewich's feature debut *Kissed*, director Grant Harvey's *American Beer*, and Regina-based Richard Kerr's *the willing voyeur...* (see Kerr's "The Making of *the willing voyeur...*" in this issue). Adapted from Toronto writer Barbara Gowdy's short story, "We So Seldom Look On Love," Stopkewich's *Kissed* is a study of one woman's life-long obsession with death. Molly Parker is virtually luminescent in the role of Sandra Larson, an apprentice undertaker and necrophile whose own life force is seemingly drawn from the energy cast off by the lovers she's inexorably drawn to. Peter Outerbridge is wonderfully edgy as the medical student Matt, Sandra's equally obsessed suitor who'll do anything to win the ultimate place in her heart. Gorgeous camera work and art direction combine with a disarming emotional honesty to make *Kissed* an art house film with a heart. You can also expect *American Beer* at this year's festival, a truly refreshing Canadian indie from Grant Harvey and co-writers/cast members Brent and Jordan Kawchuk. *American Beer* is firmly set in the tradition of irreverent road movies and recounts the adventures of four young Canucks whose car breaks down while on a road trip to the mecca of watery malt beverages south of the 49th parallel. Things heat up when the guys strike out in separate directions in search of an alternator for their disabled 1966 Corvair. What begins simply as a buddy/road movie for 20-somethings quickly evolves into a hilarious, poignant and sophisticated ensemble piece that takes each character on a journey of self-discovery. ■

