

Short Takes

Me, Mom and Mona The two Shum sisters and their mom sit down for a discussion about dad. Gales of laughter resound as they tell each other how they get around him. Mina, a filmmaker, recalls her divorce in December and trying to tell her father the following March. Mom talks about her strict upbringing in Hong Kong, marriage, and emigration to Canada. A very engaging film showing that, through laughter, the vibrant Shum women have found their way to handle being both Chinese and Canadian. Watch the credits for *Sixteen Tons* sung in Chinese.

DIRECTED BY MINA SHUM
20 MINS., 16MM/VIDEO

The Critique An arrogant professor of Architectural Design (H.C. Selkirk) tries to inspire his students to greater heights, to feel passionately about their designs. But he's not above a spot of plagiarism himself to win a coveted award. One student (Chris Leavins) follows the professor's ideas slavishly and incorporates some of them into his own project. The prof tears the project to bits; the demoralized student commits suicide. The professor, consumed by guilt, believes the student comes back to life. Enquiries are made into the profes-

sor's designs, and he accepts his fate. Here's an interestingly literate script, not-so-interesting actors, and an over-abundance of original music. But the cinematography and lighting are crisp and, with a few minutes nipped out, this first film should prove a sharp tv calling card.

DIRECTED, WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY EDMOND CHAN
29 MINS. 16MM.

See Dick Run A surrealist look at a woman who constantly changes to suit the times. The film opens with a period beauty before her mirror, laced in a corset, who changes to a housewife, a bag lady, and a "little girl in white." Along the way, many questions are raised. At the end, a modern woman strips off her makeup and gazes

into another mirror. The flow of on-screen imagery sustains interest (especially the recurring fish...), but it does seem a mite draggy at 18 mins.

DIRECTED BY CAROL CLUSIAU
18 MINS., 16MM/VIDEO

What About Dad! A syrupy sitcom is in progress. Dad is coming home for mom's dinner. "Sweet sixteen" daughter Sandra (Henriette Ivanans) and young son are at home as well. Elsewhere in tv-land, punk teen star, Johnny Jinx (Christopher Kennedy)—who lusts after Sandra—indulges in tantrums on set and storms off. Wandering aimlessly along a street, he sees his Sandra gazing out of her bedroom window. They go to bed and indulge in a lot of naughties. But a happy ending is a must, and

the couple walk off in the moonlight after declining the keys to dad's car. A little twisted parody of a Never Never Land tv family that's undercut by heavy-handed execution.

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY BRENDAN SMITH
18 MINS., 16MM/VIDEO

Putty Worm A woman (Anna Mackay-Smith) drives along a deserted road. Her small son (August Murphy-King) is asleep on the back seat. She stops by a wooded area and leaves the car to stretch. Another car comes over a rise, stops, and a man gets out to offer help. He then lunges at her. The child awakes and runs after his mother, while another man gets out of the second car and follows them into the woods. The two men indulge in a sickening

orgy of rape and sodomy. The woman staggers to protect her son, but the men batter her about the head and kill her. The son is last seen running down the lonely road in slow motion, mouth open in a silent scream. Shot in black and white, it presents the four characters in isolation without any background. The audience can only focus on the horror of the acts of perversion. A gritty, chilling, no-holds-barred first film.

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY COLLEEN MURPHY
11 MINS., B&W, 16MM/VIDEO

Telewhore A telephone rings and a woman answers. She goes into her regular spiel, replete with four-letter words, panting and moaning, with the intermittent humming of a vibrator as background. In an interview, the blasé, no-nonsense purveyor of telephone arousal says it's safe sex, and adds "I don't think in terms of morality, I think in terms of money." She considers her clients stupid, who believe anything she tells them. Frank, funny, but ultimately a sad comment on the fast-growing business of tele-sex.

DIRECTED BY SPENCER RICE
8 MINS., 16MM/VIDEO



Me, Mom and Mona

PATRICIA THOMPSON IS PUBLISHER AND EDITOR OF FILM CANADA YEARBOOK.