

TAKE ONE'S ANNUAL SURVEY of Canadian Features Released in the GTA

By Wyndham Wise

For the past five years *Take One*, in our winter issue, has published a survey of Canadian features that played in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), logging them according to the number of weeks the film played and number of screens they played on. The final result for 2000 is as follows: 34 Canadian features played on a total of 568 screens. For the purposes of this survey 568 screens (249 Cineplex, 206 Famous Players, 98 AMC, 15 independent) were tracked over 52 weeks for a total of 29,536 screens. Screen time for Canadian films in the GTA in 2000 was 1.9 per cent.

In terms of weeks played, the top five Canadian films in the GTA in 2000 were Allan Moyle's *New Waterford Girl* (18), István Szabó's *Sunshine* (16), Robert Vince's *MVP: Most Valuable Primate* (16), Christian Duguay's *The Art of War* (12) and Stewart Raffill's *Grizzly Falls* (7). Honourable mention goes to Atom Egoyan's *Felicia's Journey* (which was a 1999 release, but still played seven weeks in 2000), Gary Burns's *waydowntown* (6), Ron Mann's *Grass* (4), Denys Arcand's *Stardom* (4), Jeremy Podeswa's *The Five Senses* (3), Louis Bélanger's *Post Mortem* (3), Reginald Harkema's *A Girl Is a Girl* (3) and Denis Villeneuve's *Maelström* (3). Two thousand was not a vintage year but healthy in terms of the growth of a commercial Canadian cinema. Three of the top five were genre films. *Take One's* choice for best Canadian feature of 2000 is, without a doubt, *New Waterford Girl*, and all those Academy jury members who didn't nominate Tricia Fish for one of the most original and insightful coming-of-age screenplays ever written in Canada should be taken out to the back shed and given forty whacks.

Take One has decided to suspend its annual survey for now. The point has been made, and the results are too depressing to repeat year after year. It's becoming a bad-news story. The percentage of Canadian screen time in the GTA has not risen above 2.4 per cent and hit a low of 1.45 per cent over the period *Take One* has been doing its tracking. When Heritage Minister Sheila Copps announced additional federal funding for feature filmmaking at last year's Vancouver International Film Festival, she got it right when she acknowledged that Canadian films occupied two per cent of national screen time and expressed a hope that it would be five per cent in the foreseeable future. With all due respect to the minister, five per cent is probably unattainable but three per cent might be achievable over the next generation if the quality of Canadian feature-filmmaking talent continues to improve. It was in 1924 when the provincial treasurer of Ontario declared upon the opening of the Trenton Studios that not one per cent of the films in Canadian cinemas were actually Canadian. It's taken over 75 years to reach 1.9 per cent.



FILM, DIRECTOR

WEEKS, YEAR

THE RED VIOLIN, François Girard	27, 98/99
EXOTICA, Atom Egoyan	25, 94/95
THE SWEET HEREAFTER, Atom Egoyan	22, 97/98
NEW WATERFORD GIRL, Allan Moyle	18, 00
LAST NIGHT, Don McKellar	16, 98/99
MARGARET'S MUSEUM, Mort Ransen	16, 96
MVP: MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE, Robert Vince	16, 00
SUNSHINE, István Szabó	16, 99/00
FELICIA'S JOURNEY, Atom Egoyan	15, 99/00
SUCH A LONG JOURNEY, Sturla Gunnarsson	15, 99
THIRTY-TWO SHORT FILMS ABOUT GLENN GOULD, François Girard	14, 94
LE CONFESSIONAL, Robert Lepage	13, 96
AIR BUD, Charles Martin Smith	12, 97
THE ART OF WAR, Christian Duguay	12, 00
BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE, Anne Wheeler	11, 99
CRASH, David Cronenberg	11, 96/97
DOUBLE HAPPINESS, Mina Shum	10, 95
THE HANGING GARDEN, Thom Fitzgerald	10, 98
KISSED, Lynne Stopkewich	10, 97/98
WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING, Patricia Rozema	10, 95
ZERO PATIENCE, John Greyson	9, 94
I LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM, David Wellington	8, 93
LILIES, John Greyson	8, 96/97
AIR BUD: GOLDEN RETRIEVER, Richard Martin	7, 98
ECLIPSE, Jeremy Podeswa	7, 95
FIRE, Deepa Mehta	7, 97
GRIZZLY FALLS, Stewart Raffill	7, 00
KIDS IN THE HALL BRAIN CANDY, Kelly Martin	7, 96
LOVE AND HUMAN REMAINS, Denys Arcand	7, 94
BEEFCAKE, Thom Fitzgerald	6, 99
DANCE ME OUTSIDE, Bruce McDonald	6, 95
DIRTY, Bruce Sweeney	6, 98
EXISTENZ, David Cronenberg	6, 99
LA FLORIDA, George Mihalka	6, 94
HARD CORE LOGO, Bruce McDonald	6, 96/97
JOHNNY MNEMONIC, Robert Longo	6, 95
LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, David Wellington	6, 96
LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND, Richard Kwietniowski	6, 98
PARIS, FRANCE, Jerry Ciccoritti	6, 93
REGENERATION, Gilles MacKinnon	6, 99
WAYDOWNTOWN, Gary Burns	6, 00
CAMILLA, Deepa Mehta	5, 95
THE FIVE SENSES, Jeremy Podeswa	5, 99
JACOB TWO TWO MEETS THE HOODED FANG, George Bloomfield	5, 99
MAGIC IN THE WATER, Rick Stevenson	5, 95
MOUVEMENTS DU DÉSIR, Léa Pool	5, 94/95
MUSTARD BATH, Darrell Wasyk	5, 94
NEVER TALK TO STRANGERS, Peter Hall	5, 95/96
UN 32 AOÛT SUR TERRE, Denis Villeneuve	5, 99
WHALE MUSIC, Richard J. Lewis	5, 95
CUBE, Vincent Natali	4, 98/99
CURTIS'S CHARM, John L'Ecuyer	4, 96
EMPORTE-MOI, Léa Pool	4, 99
GRASS, Ron Mann	4, 00
GREY OWL, Richard Attenborough	4, 99
NÔ, Robert Lepage	4, 98/99
PROJECT GRIZZLY, Paul Lynch	4, 96/97
RUDE, Clement Virgo	4, 95/96
STARDOM, Denys Arcand	4, 00
THIS IS MY FATHER, Paul Quinn	4, 99
UNCUT, John Greyson	4, 98
BABAR, KING OF THE ELEPHANTS, Raymond Jafelice	3, 99

François Girard's *The Red Violin*

Instead of just a survey of the 34 features that played in the GTA in 2000, *Take One* thought it might be interesting to chart the 200 plus films released between 1994 and 2000, focusing on the 20 that played 10 or more weeks. Nearly a third (six) were co-productions: François Girard's *The Red Violin* (Canada/Italy/U.S./U.K.), István Szabó's *Sunshine* (Canada/Germany/Hungary), Mort Ransen's *Margaret's Museum* (Canada/U.K.), Atom Egoyan's *Felicia's Journey* (Canada/U.K.), Robert Lepage's *Le Confessional* (Canada/France/U.K.) and Charles Martin Smith's *Air Bud* (Canada/U.S.). No longer are international co-productions dismissed as "unCanadian," but they have been embraced as the way of the future. Notable by their absence are directors coming from a documentary tradition. Only Mort Ransen, Sturla Gunnarsson and Anne Wheeler can be said to represent that background. The dominant directors are now from a new generation whose resumés do not include the National Film Board or the CBC. François Girard, Robert Lepage, Atom Egoyan, Don McKellar, Mina Shum, Lynne Stopkewich, Patricia Rozema are new leaders of a more dynamic Canadian feature-film culture.

The lack of Québécois films in the first 20 is notable; a weakness of any Toronto-centric survey. The story of Quebec cinema could be told from a similar survey of Montreal releases but it would be a radically different tale. The cinematic divide can be demonstrated quite simply by the two most successful Québécois films of the past six years; Louis Saïa's *Les Boys* and *Les Boys II* played, collectively, three weeks in the GTA. An encouraging trend is the growth of genre films that do well in the North American market as a whole, such as the *Air Bud* franchise from Vancouver (which includes Robert Vince's *MVP: Most Valuable Primate*) and Christian Duguay's *The Art of War*. It is perhaps ironic that the last director's name to appear in the alphabetical listing of the first 20 films is Patricia Rozema for her lesbian love story, *When Night Is Falling*. While there's nothing ironic about the popularity of *When Night Is Falling*, it's *Mansfield Park*, Rozema's other film made during this period, that is not on the list. Here's the irony: if there had been any Canadian money in the film, it would rival or surpass *The Red Violin* and *Exotica* for top spot.

Patricia Rozema, Atom Egoyan, Don McKellar and, by extension, François Girard – the Toronto new wave – have come into their own. It is fitting that *The Red Violin* was the most popular film. It is an ideal example of what Canadian cinema can be at its best: a Quebec/Ontario/international co-production with a perfect blend of Canadian and international talent. The history of Canadian cinema is being rewritten.



Atom Egoyan's *Exotica* and *The Sweet Hereafter*

FILM, DIRECTOR

WEEKS, YEAR

BABYFACE, Jack Blum	3, 98
BLOOD & DONUTS, Holly Dale	3, 96
BOYS CLUB, John Fawcett	3, 97
ELDORADO, Charles Binamé	3, 95
THE FALLING, Raul Schez Inglis	3, 99
THE FISHING TRIP, Amnon Bachbinder	3, 98
THE FIVE SENSES, Jeremy Podeswa	3, 00
A GIRL IS A GIRL, Reginald Harkema	3, 00
GOIN' DOWN THE ROAD, Don Shebib	3, 99
HOUSE, Laurie Lynd	3, 96
KITCHEN PARTY, Gary Burns	3, 98
LISTE NOIR, Jean-Marc Vallée	3, 95/96
PICTURE OF LIGHT, Peter Mettler	3, 96
POST MORTEM, Louis Bélanger	3, 00
MAELSTRÖM, Denis Villeneuve	3, 00
SCREAMERS, Christian Duguay	3, 96
SUBURBANATORS, Gary Burns	3, 96
SWANN, Anna Benson Gyles	3, 97
TOPS & BOTTOMS, Cristine Richey	3, 99
LES BOYS, Louis Saïa	2, 98
THE COCKROACH THAT ATE CINCINNATI, Michael McNamara	2, 97
LA COMTESSE DE BATON ROUGE, André Forcier	2, 98
CONQUEST, Piers Haggard	2, 99
C'T'À TON TOUR, LAURA CADIEUX, Denise Filiatrault	2, 99
DANCING ON THE MOON, Kit Hood	2, 98

THE DARLING FAMILY, Allan Zweig	2, 94
2 SECONDES, Manon Briand	2, 99
THE DIVINE RYANS, Stephen Reynolds	2, 99
DOG PARK, Bruce McCulloch	2, 99
THE ETERNAL HUSBAND, Chris Philpott	2, 99
EXTRAORDINARY VISITOR, John Doyle	2, 99
FISH TALE SOUP, Annette Manguard	2, 97
FOR THE MOMENT, Aaron Kim Johnson	2, 95
FOUR DAYS, Curtis Wehrfritz	2, 99
FULL BLAST, Rodrigue Jean	2, 00
THE GYPSIES OF SVINIA, John Paskievich	2, 99
HANG THE DJ, Marco & Mauro La Villa	2, 98
HEART OF THE SUN, Francis Damberger	2, 99
HEAVEN BEFORE I DIE, Izidore K. Musallam	2, 97
HEAVY METAL, Gerald Potterton	2, 96
HENRY & VERLUN, Gary Ledbetter	2, 95
HOLLYWOODISM: JEWS, MOVIES, AND THE AMERICAN DREAM, Simcha Jacobovici	2, 98
JACK & JILL, John Kalangis	2, 99
JOE'S SO MEAN TO JOSEPHINE, Peter Wellington	2, 97
JOE'S WEDDING, Michael Kennedy	2, 98
LOUIS 19 th , LE ROI DES ONDES, Michel Poulette	2, 95
LULU, Srinivas Krishna	2, 96
MEN WITH GUNS, Kari Skogland	2, 99
MESMER, Roger Spottiswoode	2, 96
MICHELLE APARTMENTS, John Pozzer	2, 96
MY FATHER'S ANGEL, Davor Marjanovic	2, 00
OCTOBRE, Pierre Falardeau	2, 94

ORDINARY MAGIC, Giles Walker	2, 93
POWER, Magnus Isacson	2, 96
RATS & RABBITS, Lewis Furey	2, 00
ROLLERCOASTER, Scott Smith	2, 00
SALT WATER MOOSE, Stuart Margolian	2, 96
SHOEMAKER, Colleen Murphy	2, 97
SKIN DEEP, Midi Onidera	2, 97
SOMETHING MORE, Rob King	2, 99
STOLEN HEART, Terry O'Brien	2, 98
STOLEN MOMENTS, Margaret Wescock	2, 98
TO WALK WITH LIONS, Carl Schultz	2, 00
TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN, John Pozzer	2, 00
TURNING APRIL, Geoffrey Bennett	2, 96
TWILIGHT OF THE ICE NYMPHS, Guy Maddin	2, 97
VIOLET, Rosemary House	2, 00
WE ALL FALL DOWN, Martin Cummins	2, 00
WIND FROM WYOMING, André Forcier	2, 94
THE ACADIAN CONNECTION, Monique LeBlanc	1, 95
AIRBORNE, Julien Grant	1, 99
BABEL, Gérard Pullicino	1, 99
BASEBALL GIRLS, Lois Siegel	1, 96
BOOZECAN, Nicholas Campbell	1, 99
BOY MEETS GIRL, Jerry Ciccoritti	1, 99
LES BOYS II, Louis Saïa	1, 99
BREWSTER MCGEE, Ross Munro	1, 00
CADILLAC GIRLS, Nicholas Kendall	1, 94
CAN'T BEAT A WOMAN, Gail Singer	1, 98
THE CHAMPAGNE SAFARI, George Ungar	1, 95
THE CIRCLE GAME, Brigitte Berman	1, 95

SURVEYS SURVEYS SURVEYS SURVEYS

Allan Moyle's *New Waterford Girl*



Don McKellar's *Last Night*



CLUTCH, Chris Grismer	1, 00
COSMOS, Jennifer Alleyn, Manon Briand, Marie-Julie Dallaire, Arto Paragamian, André Turpin & Denis Villeneuve	1, 97
CRACK ME UP, Bashar Shbib	1, 94
DESPERATELY SEEKING HELEN, Eisha Marjara	1, 99
DOCTORS WITH HEART, Tahani Rached	1, 95
DRIVE, SHE SAID, Mina Shum	1, 98
EROTICA, Maya Gallus	1, 99
L'ESCORTE, Denis Langlois	1, 97
FAT CHANCE, Jeff McKay	1, 94
FIRST DEGREE, Jeff Woolnough	1, 96
HEAVY METAL II, Michel Lemire	1, 00
THE HIGHWAYMAN, Keoni Waxman	1, 00
IRON EAGLE IV, Sidney Furie	1, 96
JOHNNY, Carl Bessai	1, 00
JUST WATCH ME: TRUDEAU AND THE 70S GENERATION, Catherine Annu	1, 99
KANESATAKE: 270 YEARS OF RESISTANCE, Alanis Obomsawin	1, 93
LADIES ROOM, Gabriella Christiani	1, 00
THE LIFE BEFORE THIS, Jerry Ciccoritti	1, 99
LITTLE MEN, Rodney Gibbons	1, 98
MATRONI ET MOI, Jean-Philippe Duval	1, 00
MAX, Charles Wilkinson	1, 95
MON ONCLE ANTOINE, Claude Jutra	1, 98
MS BEAR, Paul Ziller	1, 99
NEVER TOO LATE, Giles Walker	1, 97
NIGHT OF THE FLOOD, Bernar Hebert	1, 97
ONCE IN A BLUE MOON, Philip Spink	1, 96
OUT: STORIES OF LESBIAN AND GAY LIVES, David Atkin	1, 94
PAINT CANS, Paul Donovan	1, 94
PALE SAINTS, Joel Wyner	1, 98
PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME, John Hamilton	1, 00
A PLACE CALLED CHIAPAS, Nettie Wilde	1, 99
POCAHONTAS: THE LEGEND, Daniele J. Suisia	1, 95
LE POLYGRAPHE, Robert Lepage	1, 97
POWDER ROOM, Ann Kennard	1, 97
POWER OF ATTORNEY, Howard Hamelstein	1, 95
THE RETURN OF TOMMY TRICKER, Michael Rubbo	1, 94
RIDE ME, Bashar Shbib	1, 94
THE ROAD HOME, Dean Hamilton	1, 96
THE ROAD TO SADDLE RIVER, Francis Damberger	1, 95
ROWING THROUGH, Masato Harada	1, 96
RUPERT'S LAND, Jonathan Tammuz	1, 98
SILENT WITNESS, Harriet Wichin	1, 95
SOUL SURVIVOR, Stephen Williams	1, 95

RVVEYSUR

SPIKE OF LOVE, Steve DiMarco	1, 95
STARLIGHT, Jonathan Kay	1, 97
ST JUDE, John L'Ecuyer	1, 00
STOWAWAYS, Denis Chouinard & Nicolas Wadimoff	1, 98
TIT-COQ, Gratién Gélinas & René Delacroix	1, 00
TWO BROTHERS, A GRILANDAGUN, William Hornecker	1, 94
TWO THOUSAND AND NONE, Arto Paragamian	1, 00
2103: THE DEADLY WAKE, Philip Jackson	1, 98
WASAGA, Judith Doyle	1, 95
WATER DAMAGE, Murray Battle	1, 00
WHEN JUSTICE FAILS, Allan Goldstein	1, 99
WHO'S COUNTING? MARILYN WARING ON SEX, LIES AND GLOBAL ECONOMICS, Terre Nash	1, 95
WOMAN WANTED, Kiefer Sutherland	1, 00
THE WRONG GUY, David Steinberg	1, 98

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