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Undaunted By Snickers

MONTREAL (CP) - The announcement that a Montreal film co-operative will play host to a millimetre film festival this fall was greeted with some scepticism, but organizer Dimitri Eipides is undaunted by the snickers. "Sixteen millimetre is considered a dirty word in some places," Eipides conceded cheerfully, "but with all the publicity that the feature film industry has been getting lately, we are in danger of ignoring shorter works. "Canada has an old tradition in 16-mm. and it is entirely valid that we

continue this tradition and expand it."

The festival, scheduled for Oct. 26-31 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, will include more than 40 hours of 16-mm. movies - features, shorts, experimental, narrative and documentary.

Films will be recommended by individual countries and viewed by a pre-selection committee in Montreal.

Plans for an international jury and prizes were scrapped because of a lack of funds.

Right now, it looks as though Eipides himself will be financing the festival.

"We haven't had much luck with the usual sources," he explained. "Our budget is minimal; the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is supplying the auditorium, the National Film Board has promised technical assistance and advice and we have letters of support from most of the French-Canadian film organizations."

Eipides' optimism arises from a long line of successful ideas which observers thought would be sure-fire failures.

For example, when he first suggested a mini-festival of Canadian underground films to tour Europe in 1969, Eipides was greeted with the same derisory remarks the 16-mm. festival is garnering now.

Both the Canada Council and the Canadian Film Development Corp. pulled the purse-strings tighter and refused help.

But later that year, when they saw Eipides was determined to use his own money if necessary to take the mini-festival overseas, both groups chipped in.

They paid air fare for Eipides and his assistant, Claude Chamberland, to visit Stockholm, Berlin and

Lausanne. Eipides financed appearances in 13 other countries.

In 1970, the Canada Council and the external affairs department fuelled the mini-festival's budget, enabling the program of independent Canadian cinema to be shown in 27 countries.

It was also screened at festivals in Locarno, San Sebastien and Mannheim.

As a follow-up, Eipides this year prepared a review of Canadian shorts for the Oberhausen festival and later sent it through Holland and France.

A Tourist Welcome



people from Ontario visiting Ontario Place this year may well see one of these pretty young Honda girls working for the Toronto Convention Bureau this summer. Jane Hall is in the foreground, along with her team-mates Patti Ellis (L), and Ursula Shwetz patrol Metro's streets every day on their minibikes offering tourists assistance on not only where to find Ontario Place, but where to park, eat, sleep and shop while visiting the area. The girls are even equipped to handle language differences too, combining their talents in English, French and German.



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