

Movies celebrate 100th birthday in Canada

As the film industry celebrates its centennial, motion pictures have embraced the world as one of the most pre-eminent art forms of the 20th century.

ince as the third busiest picture production centre in North America, behind Hollywood and New York, with more than 100 productions per year. Vancouver and Montreal are also

major production centres.

Known to the film industry as Hollywood North, scenes shot in and around Toronto have included: *Moonstruck* which starred Academy Award winner, Cher, *Three Men and a Baby* with Tom Selleck and Ted Danson, *Switching Channels* with Burt Reynolds and Kathleen Turner, *Adventures in Babysitting*; *Police Academy I, III, and IV*; Norman Jewison's *January Man*; *Cocktail* with Tom Cruise; as well as the *Killing Fields*. Kodak Canada Inc.'s executive board room was recently used as a high-powered, decision-making backdrop for the soon to be released film *Millennium* starring Kris Kristofferson and Cheryl Ladd. Today, Canada enjoys major film festivals across the country, featuring the finest in International and Canadian cinema.

as clearly defined as those in the United States because of Canada's scattered population and geographic size.

In addition, numerous good Canadian actresses, actors, and directors who could have contributed significantly to the growth of the film industry went to Hollywood. One of the most famous performers to leave Canada was Toronto born and raised Mary Pickford, two-time Academy Award winner.

First Canadian Theatres

In March 1906, John C. Griffen opened Toronto's first permanent movie theatre, the Theatorium. A major Ontario theatre circuit sprung from the Theatorium, and Quebec-born Ernest Ouimet opened the first Canadian film exchange.

In the U.S., studios were looking for new locations, and Los Angeles was establishing itself as the movie industry capital. Construction in 1916 of studios at Trenton, Ontario was the closest thing to Hollywood in Canada. George Brownridge of Canadian National Films had set up the studio to produce fiction films.

By the late 1920s, the Canadian film industry was collapsing under the domination of Hollywood. During this difficult cinematic period, only Associated Screen survived.

Associated Screen News had been established in Montreal in 1920 by Bernard Norrish to combine news events shot by Canadians with those of foreign newsreels.



George Eastman (left), and friend Thomas Alva Edison, early collaborators. Edison purchased one of Eastman's first "snapshot" cameras. The continuous roll of film it held became the basis for Edison's invention of his first motion picture camera.



Mary Pickford established herself as "America's Sweetheart" during the 1920s. Born and raised in Toronto, she appeared in more than 200 films and won two Academy Awards. (Photo credit: Canapress)

Inventing The Moving Image

Filmmaking actually began in 1888 through the collaboration of two multifaceted and inspired inventors, Thomas Edison and George Eastman. Edison had a concept for a one-person movie theatre, which he planned to display at the 1894 Chicago Exposition. George Eastman, inventor of the Kodak snapshot camera, provided Thomas Edison with film for the first motion picture camera and projector.

The first Canadian public movie exhibition took place at Ottawa's West End Park on July 21, 1896. Twelve-hundred city residents had gathered to experience Edison's wonderful invention, moving pictures.

Canadian film production companies started cropping up by 1911, but their future wasn't

Over 1,000,000 Canadians go to the movies every week, and on an average day 20,000,000 Canadians watch television. In North America, 80 per cent of prime-time television originates on film, not to mention the numerous music videos, television commercials and documentaries also produced on film.

Over 100 Productions a Year
Toronto boasts the highest movie attendance per capita of any major North American city, and Toronto has risen to prom-

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