

Crusading coroner Wojeck is back on TV



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Two decades ago, the battles of a crusading coroner named Steve Wojeck were a weekly staple on CBC-TV.

Wojeck is back! Production begins Jan. 22 in Toronto on Wojeck, a two-hour CBC movie.

John Vernon returns in the role that raised him to prominence. Patricia Collins slips back into the role of Marty Wojeck and Ted Follows once again portrays Arnie Bateman - who is now the Deputy Solicitor General.

The script has Wojeck returning from two decades in Africa, where he was practising medicine. He resumes his career as a coroner and investigates the mysterious death of a young illegal immigrant.

"At the time (the TV series) was produced, it was way ahead of its time, bold and brave in both subject matter and style," said Sam Levene, executive producer for the TV movie. "We're trying to carry on that tradition."

The CBC recently started rerunning episodes of the TV series.

No date has been set for the movie's debut.

Walt Disney's Cinderella, which has aptly been described as one of the crown jewels of the Disney animation library, makes its Canadian television premiere Jan. 14 on Family Channel.

The superb animation and bright musical score made this 1950 movie a runaway box office success, rescuing the Disney Studio from one of its worst financial slumps.

More than 700 people, including artists, worked for six years to produce this animated version of Charles Perrault's classic fairy tale.

La Bamba, the 1987 hit movie based on the short life of singing star Ritchie Valens, airs Jan. 9 on CTV.

Lou Diamond Phillips portrays Ricardo Valenzuela, who, under the stage name of Ritchie Valens, produced three major hits in just eight months in 1958.

The 17-year-old Mexican-American rock star was killed in a 1959 plane crash that also claimed the lives of Buddy Holly and a singer known as the Big Bopper.

Sullivan Films wants to take you back to Avonlea.

The film company, producer of the Anne of Green Gables TV miniseries and its sequel, has a new series of 13 one-hour episodes based on four collections of Lucy Maud Montgomery's stories.

Road to Avonlea is set in the Prince Edward Island village of Avonlea, familiar to fans of the two Anne of Green Gables series. This time, the focal point is Sara

Stanley (Sarah Polley), the pampered 10-year-old daughter of a wealthy Montreal family, who is sent to live with relatives on Prince Edward Island after her father's business empire is destroyed.

Two familiar faces from the Anne of Green Gables telecasts show up in episodes of the new series: Marilla Cuthbert (Colleen Dewhurst), Anne Shirley's adop-

tive mother, and Rachel Lynde (Patricia Hamilton), the town gossip.

The first episode will be aired Jan. 7 on the CBC's Family Hour.

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