

# Arts and Ideas

## Canadian film belongs with all-time legends

Many films that come out of Hollywood now seem to imply that the American Dream has become a nightmare. Films like "Wild at Heart", "State of Grace", and "Death Warrant", to name a few from this summer and fall, are so horrendously brutal and violent that the previews one sees of them in the movie theatres before a feature presentation, give one an unsurmountable fear of these productions.

Even if the critics rave, I can't make myself go to any of them. I also have the suspicion that the killings on the screen are a sign of the mental derangement that is destroying the minds of North Americans.

This disease could be more insidious than AIDS, because we refuse to see that we have a problem. Our reigning ideology, after all, proclaims loud and clear that everything, yes everything, that makes a buck is okay. If there is money to be made from producing this killer garbage, so be it. Or should we accept as the truth, that the killer was always the true hero in American folklore, the one who cleared the land, so to say, of the original inhabitants and the wild beasts and made the conquest of the continent possible?

Be that as it may, I saw a film recently, that is the very opposite of all this. It is a Canadian film that belongs, in my opinion, with the legendary films of all time. The film's title is "Company of Strangers." It is running at the "Showcase" on Yonge Street in Toronto, and I urge you not to miss it, in particular if you are over 60 years old.

The film's director, Cynthia Scott, has assembled eight women (not one of them an actress). She has put them on an old, yellow bus, and has, more or less, improvised from there.

I have seen several films in my lifetime, that were made with amateurs, and I can't remember a single one that was much good. On a stage it's kind of bearable to see self-conscious movements and to hear badly spoken lines, but in a movie?

The movie camera's cold stare exposes the amateur's pretensions



**John Sommer**  
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

without mercy. The result is cruel laughter or boredom, instead of compassionate viewing.

With "Company of Strangers" a miracle has happened. Under the inspired guidance of the director, Alice Diabo, Contance Garneau, Winifred Holden, Cissy Meddings, Mary Meigs, Catherine Roche, Michelle Sweeney and Beth Webber play themselves.

They go on an outing together, they make a detour and get stranded. An abandoned farmhouse gives them shelter until they are rescued a few days later. Not much happens, at least not on the surface.

Seven of the eight are elderly women, and their mortality is uppermost in their minds. They search for food, they amuse themselves with little improvised parties, and they talk. Although they lack comfort and food they have a good time, somehow. There are no fences between them and no rivalries. When rescued, they seem to leave this blessed, but materially poor Eden with reluctance. Each of the women is a complex and touching character and every one of them is a star.

Tonight (Wednesday) is the opening of Here and Now '90, at the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre in Georgetown. This is the yearly exhibition of Halton art and artists and if you are at all interested in the arts and want to know what's new in that respect in the region, this is the place to be. The Friends-of-the-Halton-Hills Libraries invite you to their reception between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The "Arts and Crafts of Georgetown" is the oldest of the

local groups concerned with the arts. The group was founded in 1942 by Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Beer.

This year the ladies from the "Arts and Crafts of Georgetown" were forced to hold their annual

sale earlier than usual. Not after Thanksgiving, but this Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

I hope that this change of date

will not prevent the people of this area to go to the North Halton Golf and Country Club to do some early Christmas shopping.

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**Dr. David Mensah speaks on**  
**FAITH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
Thursday, Oct. 4th  
at 7:30 p.m.  
at Georgetown District High School  
**FREE ADMISSION**

For Information Call:  
**DAVID CALDWELL 873-2184**  
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Dr. Mensah will also speak at Mountainview Baptist Church  
Fri. Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sat. Oct. 6 at 7:00 p.m.  
Sun. Oct. 7 at 11:00 a.m.



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Artist Jane Burns and sculptor Borge Jorgensen were on hand Saturday afternoon at Gallery House Sol, located at 45 Charles Street, Georgetown, to greet the public at the opening of the exhibition of their works. The Burns and Jorgensen exhibit will be featured at the Gallery House Sol until Oct. 18. (Herald photo)

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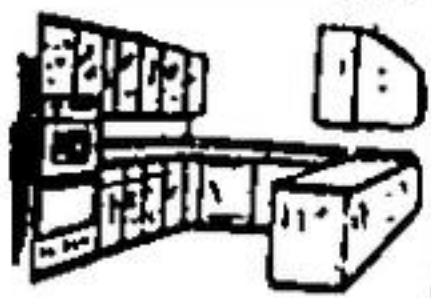
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