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Entertainment Editor



## Will sex bridge Two Solitudes?

A Montreal film company on Thursday will try to put a little depravity into the sterile pornography scene in Toronto.

Cinepix, which has astonished the infant film industry of this country by making Canadian smut almost as popular as hockey in Quebec, hopes to make a splash here with a naughty party on a water bed.

The invitations Cinepix has sent out go like this: "Cinepix invites you to a hot-pants party in the world's largest water bed, following the (English) premiere of the new Canadian feature film, Love in a Four Letter World."

The movie is directed by Toronto's John Sone and stars Andrew Lawrence, touted as "the second sexiest Canadian." (The first sexiest, it is apparent from the movie's ads, is the man who coined the word fuddle-duddle.)

Anyway, for its Toronna orgy, Cinepix urges: "Wear your wildest things — hot pants, see-throughs, or minis — anything that will identify you with the free and uninhibited spirit of the movie. Expect the unexpected when you enter the world's largest, most sensual bed."

Now this hokum is amusing because Canadian talent has not in the past been especially high on passion let alone honest to goodness pornography.

But by sheer gall and audacity Cinepix may change all that. Who ever heard of a Canadian film company announcing to the press that "President John Dunning, other Cinepix officers and the stars (that's what they said, the stars) of Love in a Four Letter World will be available for interviews, 5 p.m. Thursday, at Mr. Dunning's Sutton Place suite . . ."

Cinepix is not quite MGM or 20th Century yet, but it has turned out, or is still turning out, an impressive number of naked Mary Poppins, such as Valerie, l'Initiation, It Ain't Easy, Awakening and Comment les Seduire (meaning, How to Seduce Them) which is being retitled, The Feminists in order to cash in on yet another vogue.

Love in a Four Letter World, you might have noticed, has not been nominated for an Academy Award, and is unlikely to be remembered as one of the great films of our time. In the synopsis of the movie we learn that "in an attempt to turn back the clock (film editor) Harry goes off to consummate a love affair with Louise, a female co-worker and professional virgin. But being drunk, gross and terribly out of date, he fails. He makes an attempt at suicide but fails at this as well . . ."

The success of Cinepix at this sort of thing is evident by the fact that its films are actually making money in Canada — enough to return the investment made in them by the Canadian Film Development Corporation.

In an article written for Saturday Night, Peter Desbarats described Cinepix's secret of success. "At some point in the late 1960s," he wrote, John Dunning "started to look at some of the European films he was distributing in Canada, particularly the ones that were making money. Two things struck him about these money makers: Some were lousy and all were sexy. He decided that lousiness had little to do with it. Canadian filmmakers had experimented widely in that area and none of them had made any money. That left only one conclusion, and Dunning proceeded to act on it."

Valerie, the story of a prostitute, began the Cinepix takeoff. "The cast," reported Desbarats, "led by a former Miss Province of Quebec, was an incredible assortment of old standbys. For many of Montreal's 'in' set, watching Valerie was like spending an evening in a favorite bar or discotheque. Sooner or later, you ran into almost everyone you knew. ('Look, there's Jean-Pierre . . . I didn't know he had a mole on his . . .)."

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**CHIEF DAN GEORGE AND SON:** Chief Dan George, whose latest honor is an Academy Award nomination, this Sunday shares guest star billing in The Manipulators with his youngest son, Len George. Chief George plays Moses, an elder on a B.C.

