



Michael McCabe (foreground) cheers our movies, among them *Agency* with Lee Majors and Robert Mitchum (top left); *Wild Horse Hank* with Linda Blair (top right); *In Praise Of Older Women* with Tom Berenger and Karen Black

Our movies rake in the cash

By Sid Adilman Toronto Star

Canadian movies are finally on the move around the world.

In the past six months, 14 recently produced Canadian movies posted global sales totalling \$39.1 million.

It's overwhelming proof that producers in Toronto and Montreal are now winning full confidence of major U.S. studios, TV networks, and pay TV organizations and distributors outside North America.

All but one of the 14 movies involved — *The Silent Partner* — had an investment from the Canadian Film Development Corp. (CFDC) whose executive director Michael McCabe has been pushing producers into making more international features for world audiences.

"Wow!" said McCabe this week when shown the tabulation.

"Producers," he said, "have taken a quantum leap in the quality of pictures they're making and in their capacity to market them. We now have producers who have moved into the big league, no backseat to anyone."

"It's no longer chicken feed time on the Canadian movie front," McCabe said.

Each of the movies boasts star names from either Hollywood or U.S. TV, with Canadian actors in secondary roles and Canadian directors at the helm of all but one.

□ **City On Fire**, a \$4.2 million disaster flick made in Montreal, stars Henry Fonda, Shelley Winters, Ava Gardner, Barry (TV's

Petrocelli) Newman and Susan Clark. It's been bought by CBS-TV for \$2,650,000 and racked up \$1.5 million in sales to distributors outside North America. A blockbuster Ontario premiere is set for summer. Director, Alvin Rakoff.

□ **Meatballs**, a \$1.6 million youth comedy shot in northern Ontario, features Bill Murray of TV's *Saturday Night Live*. Paramount Pictures in the U.S. paid \$3.8 million for U.S. movie house release, with an extra \$300,000 from Paramount Canada and \$700,000 from New York's Home Box Office for U.S. pay TV. Director, Ivan Reitman.

□ **A Man Called Intrepid**, a six-hour TV mini series being released in some countries as a theatrical movie, cost \$6 million and headlines David Niven and Michael York. NBC-TV kicked in \$4.4 million, Canada's CTV \$500,000, and sight unseen it has drawn TV sales in several countries (England, France, for example) of \$2.2 million. Director, Peter Carter. It's being shown in three two-hour segments on CTV next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 9 p.m.

□ **Running**, a \$3 million Toronto and Montreal-shot effort starring Michael Douglas and Susan Anspach, drew \$2.6 million from Universal Films (for U.S. and Canada release this fall), another \$2.6 million from ABC-TV, and \$1 million from U.S. pay TV and world sales. Director, Steven Stern.

□ **Agency**, a \$3.6 million advertising agency thriller made in Montreal and headlined Robert Mitchum, Lee Majors, and Valerie Perrine, prior to its expected fall premiere has \$1.2 million in foreign sales and a \$1.3 million purchase by Viacom for U.S.

pay TV. Director, George Kaczender who did *In Praise Of Older Women*.

□ **Murder By Decree**, a \$4.5 million, British-shot Sherlock Holmes-Jack The Ripper-adventure, had a \$4 million investment by AvcoEmbassy. *Murder By Decree* has brought in a \$1.7 million box office in Canada and \$4 million in the U.S. It stars Christopher Plummer, James Mason, Donald Sutherland, Genevieve Bujold, David Hemmings and Susan Clark. Director, Bob Clark.

□ **Bear Island**, at \$9.3 million the most expensive movie made with Canadian financing, was shot in Alaska, British Columbia and England, and is based on an Alistair Maclean adventure. Columbia Pictures of the United Kingdom put in \$3 million for world rights outside North America. It stars Vanessa Redgrave, Donald Sutherland, Richard Widmark, Lloyd Bridges, Christopher Lee, and Barbara Parkins. Director, Britain's Don Sharp. It's slated for a Christmas release.

□ **Wild Horse Hank**, a \$2,127,000 family picture with Linda (The Exorcist) Blair and Richard Crenna and shot in Alberta under director Eric Till has \$950,000 sale to NBC-TV and \$700,000 from Home Box Office for U.S. pay TV. Ontario premiere in summer.

□ **The Brood**, director David Cronenberg's latest thriller and made for \$1.4 million in Toronto with Oliver Reed and Samantha Eggar, is to open in 400 U.S. theatres and in Canada the end of June, backed by \$700,000 foreign sales.

□ **Fish Hawk**, a \$2.4 million family effort directed by Don (Goin' Down The Road)

Shebib and featuring Will Sampson, went before the cameras in Toronto with \$1.7 million from CBS-TV and \$700,000 for U.S. pay TV.

□ **In Praise Of Older Women**, has a cast including Karen Black, Tom Berenger, Susan Strasberg, Alexandra Stewart and Marilyn Lightstone. Its Canadian box office to date, \$1 million. Foreign sales so far, \$1 million.

□ **The Silent Partner**, the \$1.5 million Toronto-made bank caper with Christopher Plummer, Elliott Gould and Susannah York, won six Canadian Film Awards last year — including best director prize to Daryl Duke. It's been sold to a U.S. distributor for \$1.5 million and grossed \$1 million in Canada.

□ **Summer's Children**, a low-budget, soon-to-be-released feature about incest has been bought by CBC-TV for \$50,000; and **Two Solitudes**, which flopped in Canada, has \$75,000 in foreign sales.

"I'm pretty pleased," said the CFDC's McCabe. "This record of sales is a first reading that our policy of financing international movies (instituted when he took over his job last June) is going in the right direction."

Last year, McCabe said budgets of all Canadian movies totalled \$60 million with the CFDC lending \$7.2 million.

The CFDC retains a 1 per cent equity (financial participation) in these films and will share in profits.

This year, CFDC predicted Canadian producers will make \$100 million worth of movies.