

Quebec's Valerie opens in Toronto

TORONTO — (CP) — Valerie, a made-in-Quebec film punctuated with nude scenes, was panned by Toronto reviewers but applauded for its financial success.

"Valerie is now the film that points the way to cinematic greatness in Canada," said Kaspars Dzeguze of the

Globe and Mail, "but it is among the first to show that nothing stands between a Canadian production and successful box office but the many layers of artistic pretension that have afflicted other native efforts."

"Good breast presentation may not be good art but it's

sure good business," said Bernadette Andrews of The Telegram.

The film, directed by Denis Heroux and starring Danielle Ouimet, opened here last week.

The production was made on a \$85,000 budget and producers expect it to gross well over \$1,000,000.

The Star gave the movie the least attention and The Globe and Mail was the most complimentary.

The Star carried a report on a promotional reception early in July and let the opening later in the month pass without notice. Martin Knelman said Miss Ouimet does not lack "vroom-vroom" but said conditions at the reception were not suitable for review purposes.

The Globe and Mail said:

"It's about time that the Canadian movie industry produced a film like Valerie."

"Valerie isn't necessarily the film that director Denis Heroux wanted to make, but the financial success of this production has now freed Heroux to make two more films, more in keeping with his own wishes."

The Globe and Mail said Heroux tells the story of Valerie, a young girl who runs away from a convent school, in "a direct, craftsmanlike fashion." Valerie is drawn into prostitution and the movie eventually has a happy ending as she marries a painter. "As for the story, take 35 corny film cliches and string them loosely together with some nude scenes and you've got yourself a Valerie."



DANIELLE OUIMET