

NEWS

NSI debuts online database



BY CHERYL BINNING

THE National Screen Institute-Canada has partnered with Telus to launch an online database on the film and TV industry.

The website - www.screentradecanada.com - is designed as an information resource on Canadian film and television production and

exhibition, as well as a promotional tool for Canadian talent and programming.

The database includes detailed lists of recently produced projects, and acting, writing, directing and producing talent. It also features directories of awards, festivals, industry organizations and broadcasters. Information can be gath-

ered via a search engine. Furthermore, productions and talent can register online to be listed at the screentradecanada site.

The database also offers external links to online TV guides, movie theatre locations and film listings across Canada, as well as industry news from a variety of publications and media sources.

Project manager Karen Redford says she is looking to the industry to be content sponsors of the website.

The NSI accessed the former Telus/Stentor Innovation Fund to develop the \$100,000-plus project.

The next phase of the site includes the Online Producers Resource and Workshop, designed to offer training and mentorship for emerging producers and serving as a companion to the NSI-Canada Drama Prize Program.

Redford says this component of the site will serve as a production textbook and resource guide for new producers. It will also include

a section aimed at both above- and below-the-line talent, with detailed breakdowns of all aspects of putting together a production, from the responsibilities of the art and electrical departments to the story team.

Phase two of screentradecanada.com will be up and running by next spring.

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WFF tribute to Dunning, Link

BY LEO RICE-BARKER

MONTREAL: Thirty years after the launch of Denis Heroux's saucy box-office hit *Valerie*, the film's producers Andre Link and John Dunning have been named the recipients of this year's Grand Prix des Ameriques, a career contribution award from the Montreal World Film Festival. The tribute is scheduled for Aug. 31.

The legendary Dunning/Link duo was established back in 1962 with the launch of Cinepix, an integrated production and distribution company which later expanded to include CFP Distribution, today known as Lions Gate Films, a division of Lions Gate Entertainment, a publicly trade company based in Vancouver.

The duo's filmography includes the earliest films of directors David Cronenberg, Ivan Reitman,

George Kaczender and William Fruet, ranging from the smash box-office comedy *Meatballs*, which pulled in over \$50 million in receipts in 1980, to *Princes in Exile*, a Monte Carlo Television Festival gold-winner coproduced with the National Film Board. A new print of *Valerie* will be screened as part of the Aug. 31 tribute.

WFF runs from Aug. 27 to Sept. 6.

fiscal exercise, revenues are up 35.3% to \$87.5 million from \$64.6 million last year. Cinar Education's share is one-third of total revenues. Net earnings for the first six months rose to \$12.4 million, a 40% increase over last year, or \$0.34 per share.

TVA earnings keep growing

voting shares and 98.3% of the outstanding Class A subordinate voting shares.

Pursuant to the Canada Business Corporations Act, Astral says it intends to acquire shares held by persons who have not accepted the buying offer. The company already held more than 36% of Radiomutuel's Class A subordinate voting shares.

In financing the deal, Astral under-

\$ inthemoney

Earnings high at Cinar

