

\$2 million movie expected to attract top women to Toronto

Love is more than just a word, more than a feeling. It's now the title of a seven-part, \$2 million movie that promises to bring to Toronto this fall the most exciting, talented group of women ever assembled for a Canadian showbiz endeavor.

They are singer **Joni Mitchell**, actress **Liv Ullmann**, acclaimed writer-historian **Antonia Fraser**, novelist-playwright **Edna O'Brien**, film critic **Penelope Gilliat**, restaurant critic-novelist **Gael Green**, director **Mai Zetterling**, and screenwriter **Nancy Dowd**, who turned out the tough-minded *Slap Shot* hockey movie starring **Paul Newman**. Each of them have been commissioned to write one of the movie's various unrelated chapters all about love, but not exclusively from a woman's point of view. Mitchell, Dowd and Zetterling are to direct the ones they have written and Mitchell and Ullmann have agreed to star in the sections



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Eye on entertainment

they've authored.

The project is a first production for **Renee Perlmutter**, wife of **Quadrant Films** president **David Perlmutter**. "This," she says, "is not a sister piece, not women's lib, but rather, a more general attempt to show various aspects of love." Shooting is scheduled to start in Toronto in October. At least one Canadian director, most likely a woman whom **Renee Perlmutter** declines to name at this point, will be involved, along with a number of Canadian actors, "none of them stars."

Inside word in Ottawa is that **Pierre Trudeau's** new boys in power have no intention of following through on promises by the short-lived **Joe Clark** regime to fold the recording and publishing industries and the **Canadian Film Development Corp.** into a super **Cultural Industries Development Agency**. The agency is said to be dead, although a scheduled report initiated by the **Clark** government will be written as intended. It now will be just a study on the scope and problems of Canadian input and foreign dominance in both recording and publishing fields. Plans for the super agency included 100 per cent tax write-offs, similar to the movie industry, for investors in record production and book publishing. Such write-off provisions are still expected from the **Liberals**, but most likely not this year.

The agency was the only major thrust in the arts initiated by the **Clark** govern-

ment and not already contemplated by the **Liberals** before they lost last May. When he was secretary of state, **John Roberts** talked of a wide-ranging arts study for the '80s and the **Tories** picked **Louis Applebaum** to head that one. **Roberts'** staff had started work on plugging loopholes in movie write-off regulations to prohibit foreign executive producers from having creative control. Proposals are now in draft form, pushed ahead by **Secretary Of State David MacDonald**. For years, the **Liberals** talked about merging the secretary of state's department with **Communication** (broadcasting, satellites, pay-TV, etc) and the **Tories** just put it into effect.

What's going to happen to **MacDonald**, an MP for 15 years, and the **United Church** minister who married **John Roberts** and his photographer wife **Beverley**? An **Opposition** culture critic for a decade, he is respected by members of all

parties and is quite knowledgeable about the arts, film and broadcasting scene. Defeated in his **Prince Edward Island** riding, he's talking about working a spell in a **Third World** country. But the **Liberals** should pay attention to his capabilities and offer him a post somewhere on the federal arts scene, providing he would agree not to seek re-election. It's the opinion of several observers in and out of politics that the country's showbiz scene needs him more than **Prince Edward Island** or the **P.C.** party.

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Theme Notes: **Eleanor Sniderman's** classical **Aquitaine Record** label is going to the movies for the first time. **The Crown Of Ariadne**, featuring local harpist **Judy Loman** (nominated for a **Juno Award**), will be part of the background music for **Circle Of Two**, the **Bill Marshall-Henk Van Der Kolk** love story

movie starring **Richard Burton** and **Tatum O'Neal** shot in Toronto last year. **Confirm Or Deny:** That **Barry Manilow** is considering an offer to write a batch of new songs for a very big **Canadian** movie being made this year.

Correction

Picture wrongly identified actor

A photograph of cast members of the play *Born Yesterday* in Friday's entertainment pages wrongly identified actor **John Marley** as **Peter Jobin**. The **Star** regrets the error.