

# SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

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INSIDE: MONTE CARLO TV

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Select committee plans shelved

PROPOSALS by the Select Committee of Education, Science and the Arts, which included a vastly extended Eady Levy, would be so far reaching as to change the arrangements for the film industry and the support for film production.

The Government intends to leave the proposals until they can be considered in the context of the film industry review.

### Bogarde to head Cannes jury

DIRK BOGARDE will be president of the jury at this year's Cannes Film Festival, May 11-23.

### Video Bill to change BBFC?

SHOULD GRAHAM Bright's Video Recording Bill become law, the BBFC may have to be restructured ..... see page 31

### CBS/Fox deal with Intervision

INTERVISION and CBS/Fox Video have signed a 15-year deal to jointly operate a worldwide video leasing company. CBS/Fox will take over the manufacture, sales and distribution of Intervision product in the UK ..... see page 31

### Appeal for action to launch DBS

BBC CHAIRMAN Stuart Young (this week) called for Government action to get the proposed British DBS system into the air. Without substantial tax incentives for TV rental companies to keep prices of new technology down, the project would not be commercially viable, he said. Meanwhile talks between the BBC and IBA for sharing the costs of the £130m system continue ..... see page 34

## UIP promotes Williams-Jones

MICHAEL WILLIAMS-JONES has been appointed president of the motion picture group of United International Pictures (UIP), effective immediately.

He joined the UIP group at its founding in October 1981 as vice-president, Continental European manager, before being

appointed senior vp, international sales in November 1982.

Williams-Jones was instrumental in the development of many sales and marketing techniques contributing to the successful international release of such films as "E.T.", "An

Officer And A Gentleman", "Octopussy", "Sophie's Choice" and "Flashdance".

Before joining the UIP group, Williams-Jones was senior vp and foreign manager for UA in New York, following a marketing career in Brazil, South Africa, the UK and Europe.



• Michael Williams-Jones

# FEATURE FILM ARM FOR BBC?

THE BBC MAY launch a feature films division. The venture, possibly to be called White City Films, would produce more ambitious product than the corporation's normal output and would take advantage of current co-production opportunities in the UK and overseas.

The proposed division would either operate as a separate company, in the manner of Thames Television's Euston Films, or be incorporated into the main-

By Alex Sutherland

stream of BBC television production.

The prospect of the new venture arises from the BBC's decision to set up a working party to look into the expansion of drama output. The working party, chaired by Keith Anderson, general manager of television planning at the BBC, meets for the first time on Monday (Jan 30).

It is expected to report its

findings to the BBC's director of resources, Michael Checkland, in two or three months' time.

A project of this kind has been mooted within the corporation for some years. Its purpose, says Anderson, would be to enable the BBC to enter into large budget productions that do not fit into its

• Continued on page 2

## New president for Almi

NEW YORK-based Almi Distribution Corp has changed its name to Almi Pictures Inc and named Frank Moreno president/chief executive officer.

By BJ Franklin

Norbert T Auerbach, who joined Almi last September as a consultant and "acting" president/chief executive officer, has relinquished that title and now will function solely as a consultant.

He will continue to work out of Almi offices for the time being, Auerbach said, but eventually will open his own offices. "I will be expanding my activities for Aurora, with whom I still have consultancy, and I will have the freedom to do things on my own."

For Almi, he will concentrate on the production side, "not because

that's what they specifically want me to do — but because that's specifically what I want to do".

Moreno came to Almi on Jan 1 from running his own domestic movie distribution firm, The Frank Moreno Co in Los Angeles.

He previously was distribution/marketing vp at New World Pictures.

Auerbach was previously co-president of UIP, and before that president of United Artists.

At UA he was the studio executive credited by Barbra Streisand with getting "Yentl" made, starting with the initial agreement for UA to make it. Even after he left the studio, Auerbach continued to oversee the production. "Yentl" was one of the 1983 Christmas holiday hits and is now close to the \$50m mark in domestic grosses.

• Almi feature — page 6

## Dorothy cast in \$20m 'Oz'

NINE-YEAR-OLD Fairuza Balk (right), an American-born Vancouver schoolgirl, has been chosen to play Dorothy in Walt Disney's \$20 million "Return To Oz", which starts shooting at Thorn EMI Elstree Studios on Feb 20.

Scripted by Walter Murch and Gill Dennis from stories by "Oz" creator L Frank Baum, the film will be produced by Paul Maslansky, with Gary Kurtz as executive producer. Nicol Williamson has been signed for a leading role.

Freddie Francis is lighting cameraman, Norman Reynolds production designer, Ian Wingrove mechanical and special effects supervisor, Roy Field optical effects supervisor and Lyle Conway animatronics supervisor.



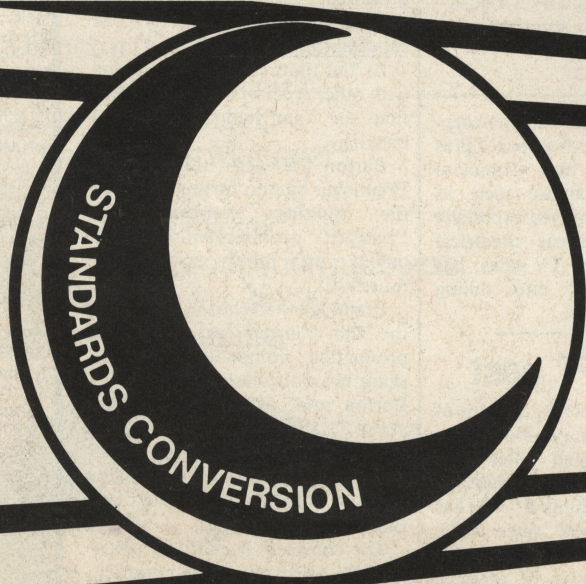
## London's Top 10

- 1 (4) **Gorky Park** (Rank) Leicester Square Theatre, Odeon 2 Kensington, Odeon 1 Swiss Cottage, Coronet 1 Westbourne Grove, Classic 1 Chelsea £38,500
- 2 (1) **Trading Places** (UIP) Empire 2, ABC 2 Shaftesbury Avenue, ABC 3 Bayswater, ABC 1 Edgware Road, ABC 2 Fulham Road, Classic 1 Oxford Street £35,686
- 3 (2) **The Honorary Consul** (20th Fox) Classic 2 Haymarket, Classic 3 Tottenham Court Road, Classic 2 Chelsea, Studio 3, Odeon 1 Kensington, Odeon 3 Swiss Cottage, Coronet 3 Westbourne Grove £26,705
- 4 (3) **Never Say Never Again** (CEW) Warner West End 2, Studio 4, Classic 1 Haymarket, Classic 1 Tottenham Court Road, ABC 1 Shaftesbury Avenue, ABC 1 Bayswater, ABC 4 Edgware Road, ABC 1 Fulham Road £26,273
- 5 (—) **Sahara** (CEW) Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon 4 Kensington, Coronet 2 Westbourne Grove, Classic 3 Chelsea £14,095
- 6 (7) **Rear Window** (UIP) Plaza 2, Screen on the Hill, Classic 4 Chelsea £9,723
- 7 (9) **La Traviata** (ITC) Odeon Haymarket £9,342
- 8 (6) **Jaws 3-D** (UIP) Plaza 1, Classic 2 Oxford Street, ABC 2 Bayswater, ABC 3 Fulham Road £9,182
- 9 (10) **Brainstorm** (UIP) Empire 1, ABC 5 Fulham Road, ABC 3 Edgware Road £8,915
- 10 (8) **The Jungle Book/Mickey's Christmas Carol** (Walt Disney) Odeon 3 Kensington, Classic 3 Haymarket, Odeon Marble Arch £7,942

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See London Box Office, page 37.

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# NEWS

## Ullman heads Berlin jury

LIV ULLMAN will be president of the Berlin Film Festival jury with Jules Dassin as executive vice-chairman, **writes Anne Head.**

Final decisions are still to be made on competition films, particularly German entries, but the festival will open with the French/Italian/Algerian film, "Le Bal", directed by Ettore Scola.

Festival director Moritz de Hadeln said he is happy about US participation at the event. So far, "Terms Of Endearment" and "Star 80" have been set for competition. From the UK come "The Dresser" and "Champions" while France will provide the world premiere of "Thieves After Dark", directed by Samuel Fuller.

A tribute will be paid to Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, and her director husband Jules Dassin. However it is uncertain whether Mercouri will attend the festival.

Strong participation in the film market has been reported by its organiser, Aina Bellis.

## 'Laughterhouse' in Norfolk

IAN HOLM, Penelope Wilton, Bill Owen, Rosemary Martin and Stephen Moore star in Greenpoint Films' "Laughterhouse", which starts shooting on Monday on location in Norfolk.

Directed by Richard Eyre from a screenplay by Brian Glover, the film is being produced by Ann Scott, with Simon Relph as executive producer. Clive Tickner is lighting cameraman and Jamie Leonard production designer.

A comedy, "Laughterhouse" is financed by Channel 4 but is being made specifically as a theatrical film. It shoots for four-and-a-half weeks on locations in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and London.

## Limehouse buys 'Compact' rights

"COMPACT", the popular BBC soap opera of the 1960s, may well be back on UK television screens by the end of the year.

Limehouse Studios have bought the rights to the series about a magazine called *Compact* from the BBC with a view to developing it into an updated version called "Impact".

Limehouse say they should have three months worth of "Impact" ready for sale to "one of the network companies" by the end of 1984. It is thought likely they will also look towards possible syndication to new cable/satellite companies in the UK.

Limehouse associate and producer, Susi Hush, whose work includes "Coronation Street", will probably produce the series.

## BBC arm

• From page 1

normal programme-making pattern.

"The problem at the moment," says Anderson, "is that we are being offered feature film packages from abroad, with major stars in them, which we simply cannot fit into our normal drama output."

"Trying to work in single one-off productions inevitably leads to throwing out long-planned BBC productions because either actors or finance suddenly become available."

"The idea is to find a more flexible way of fitting these into the BBC."

The question of whether to use

# Year of indecision in US

By BJ Franklin

1984 IS starting out in Hollywood as the year of indecision.

US exhibitors are having their troubles, waiting as studios shuffle around opening dates on their films, completely change or modify marketing plans, and in general keep on edge the exhibitors trying to lock in scheduling plans of their own.

First, 1984 is an election year, with State primaries from now until June and then the General Election in November not only drawing away a great deal of the public's attention, but also hogging available broadcast advertising time and pushing up the prices. A publisher always can add another page if his newspaper has extra adverts — but the amount of TV commercial time is limited, and no one wants to open an important movie without proper media support.

Another big cloud looming over movie distribution strategies has five interconnecting rings representing it — the summer Olympics in Los Angeles, from Saturday, July 28 to Sunday, Aug 12. That will be three normally big box office weekends that the movie industry can kiss goodbye while people sit glued to their TV sets watching the first Olympic Games

Los Angeles has hosted since 1932.

In the southern California area itself, an Olympic Arts Festival will run from June 1-Aug 12, offering a panoply of entertainments which range from the Royal Shakespeare Company (June 7-23), Royal Opera of Covent Garden (July 9-20), plus others from the UK, to all sorts of concerts, exhibitions, etc, from all over the world. They may do the same thing to the local box office that last Sunday's Super Bowl did to national box office figures for last weekend.

But over and above the spectre of both an election year and the Olympics, the major movie distribution/exhibition community has another problem slowing up marketing decisions: two majors (Universal and Columbia) and one mini-major (New World) have new managements, and one major (Warner Bros) is facing the prospect of new ownership (a recent article in the prestigious *Forbes* business magazine says that they believe Rupert Murdoch will win the struggle for Warner Communications Inc, that the Australian publishing tycoon can come up with the necessary money).

So while the product remains more or less on the line, new marketing people, who will be the ones at the front when the campaigns work or don't work, want their own ideas out there representing them.

Frank Price and Marvin Antonowsky last week brought Ed Roginsky, their senior vp publicity/promotion at Columbia, over to Universal to become part of Antonowsky's Theatrical Motion Picture Group marketing team as senior vp/manager of studio marketing. Universal ad/pub/promo vp Gordon Armstrong, who was the last major executive left in the pre-Frank Price marketing department, was moved over to MCA's Recreation Division as executive vp-marketing, where he now will handle the Universal studio tour and amphitheatre.

And Bob Rehme, who left Universal to become co-chairman/chief executive officer at New World, won't have to bring in his own team. The old crowd from Avco Embassy, including distribution/marketing senior vp Bill Shields, were already there waiting for him.

The summer of 1984 could be another record year in spite of the competition.

# 'Evil Dead' obscenity ruling unlikely to set precedent

By Terry Ilott

IN A SURPRISE court case in Wetherby, Yorkshire, magistrates ruled that "The Evil Dead", a film distributed on video by Palace Video, is obscene. This is despite the fact that the film was granted an 18 certificate by the British Board of Film Censors and was widely seen on British cinema screens last year.

The ruling marks the first time that a film with a BBFC certificate has been declared obscene. However, the case was not contested and was not held before a jury, so it is unlikely to set a precedent.

That the prosecution was brought only against the local dealer, and not against the distributor, meant that neither Palace Video nor the British Videogram Association were aware that the case was coming up. "The Evil Dead" was just one of 15 titles for which the dealer in question was being prosecuted. Had Palace or the BVA known about it, it may be that they would have organised some sort of defence.

Palace, md, Nik Powell, said that he was disgusted by the police action.

"There are jury cases pending in Leeds in a couple of weeks' time, and there are other test cases coming up in Exeter, Manchester

and Brighton," he said. "These will establish where we stand with regard to the law. The DPP (Department of Public Prosecutions) should instruct local police forces to wait for the outcome of these cases before entailing themselves, the courts and the video industry in a great deal of expense in taking individual cases before the local magistrates."

Powell said that he was not against the police seizing cassettes if that was their wish. But they should await the outcome of the test cases before going to law.

Palace Video and the BVA are expected to mount strong defences of "The Evil Dead" and other BBFC certificated films at the jury trials. In the past juries have been more reluctant than magistrates to condemn creative works under the Obscene Publications Act.

The dealer in question, Brian Morris of the Video Tape Centre, Boston Spa, was fined £1,800 on 11 charges under Section 2.

• Attempts by the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister to introduce a total ban on 18R video films in the home met with

frustration in Parliament this week, **writes Sue Newson-Smith.**

Time ran out on the committee discussing the Video Recordings Bill before a vote could be taken on the amendment.

There were accusations of massive State censorship and warnings that Britain would become a "nanny state" from MPs. It was also pointed out that enforcement of the Bill by the police would be impossible if the amendment were accepted.

Graham Bright, the Bill's sponsor, claimed that the Bill would have been lost if the amendment went through. There is a demand for pornographic videos, he said, and legislating against them would just force them underground.

Home Office minister David Mellor, speaking on behalf of the amendment, insisted that once 18R videos got into the home control was lost and obscene material may be exposed to children.

Many MPs professed to be confused about this part of the Bill and the actual limits of the 18R category. They will now have time to clarify their thoughts before the matter comes up again on Dec 1.

The committee is still discussing Clause 4 of the Bill.

• See also page 31

Certainly the fact that the corporation now has extra space, plus the prestigious and financial advantages companies such as Channel 4 have enjoyed especially in terms of overseas theatrical release and foreign TV sales, has spurred the BBC into taking action.

## New NFT post

SHEILA WHITAKER, director of the Tyneside cinema in Newcastle, has been appointed chief programme controller of the National Film Theatre. Whitaker, 47, has worked at Tyneside since 1979, seeing it become one of the most successful and active of regional film theatres in the UK. In 1981 she set up the Tyneside Film Festival.

## Vertue sets 'Dream Palace'

BERYL VERTUE has concluded a deal with Universal to produce "Dream Palace" for her Hartswood Films company.

Hartswood was set up last year and this film will be the first fruit of her association with Chrysalis, the independent record label and entertainment group.

"Dream Palace" will be directed by Russell Mulcahy, who has just completed his first feature, "Razorbuck", for Warner Bros. It will feature many of Britain's top rock acts and will be Vertue's first major music-related project since she produced "Tommy" in 1975.

Executive producer is Terry Ellis, co-chairman of the Chrysalis Group. Co-executive producers are Peter Guber and Jon Peters ("Flashdance"). Phil Ramone will be the music supervisor.

Co-producers are Malcolm Heyworth and Peter Holmans of Chatsworth Films. It will feature the first film screenplay by Tony Marchant, 23, a leading British playwright with six plays produced on the London stage.

"Dream Palace" will be shot on location in London in the late spring.



• Beryl Vertue

## Preminger in Greene suit

OTTO PREMINGER still owes £500,000 to creditors who helped him make the screen version of Graham Greene's novel "The Human Factor" five years ago, it was claimed at the High Court in London this week.

Preminger lost about £1 million of his own money after making the mistake of going ahead with the film without outside financial backing, said counsel Michael Burton.

Creditors who were still owed £500,000 included Lee Electric (Lighting) Ltd, of West London, alleged Mr Burton.

Lee Electric is suing Preminger and his company Sigma Productions, for up to £32,648.

Burton told Mr Justice Peter Pain that in 1979 Preminger had promised "personally" to pay the lighting company after the shooting of the film.

At the time Lee Electric, along with other creditors, did not realise that the film had no financial backing.

Burton alleged that, when Preminger had no further need for the lighting company, he "reneged" on his promise "while paying off others with more muscle".

Preminger had chosen to finance the film himself because major production companies did not share his enthusiasm for the idea, Burton said. The total cost was about £1.8 million.

Preminger denies liability and claims he was not personally involved in the agreement with Lee Electric.

The company is claiming either £31,198 owed under the contract, or damages of up to £32,648 for

• Continued on page 38

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## VIDEO TOP 20

Last week's Top 20 positions are in brackets. Distributors appear in brackets after video titles.

## WHOLESALE

- 1 (—) **Starship Invasion** (Intervision)
- 1=(1) **Raiders Of The Lost Ark** (CIC)
- 3 (4) **Bronx Warriors II** (Entertainment In Video)
- 4 (—) **Hero At Large** (MGM/UA)
- 5 (2) **Ziggy Stardust And The Spiders From Mars** (TEVP)
- 6 (5=) **The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas** (CIC)
- 7 (7) **48 HRS** (CIC)
- 8 (10) **Scaremaker** (VTC)
- 9 (12) **My Body Guard** (CBS/Fox)
- 10 (9) **One From The Heart** (CBS/Fox)
- 10=(5) **Now That's What I Call Music** (TEVP)
- 12 (—) **Monsignor** (CBS/Fox)
- 13 (11) **Cliff Richard Video Connection** (TEVP)
- 14 (3) **The Duran Duran Video** (TEVP)
- 15 (13) **Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence** (Palace)
- 16 (—) **Cool Cats** (MGM/UA)
- 16=(13=) **Boys In Blue** (Rank)
- 16=(13=) **The Entity** (CBS/Fox)
- 19 (—) **Tender Mercies** (TEVP)
- 19=(—) **Jane Fonda's Workout** (Warner Home Video)

Based on information kindly supplied by Centre Video, Gold & Son, Solomon & Peres, Terry Blood (Records) and Wynd-up Records.  
Compiled by Chris Brown.  
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## RENTALS

- 1 (1) **Raiders Of The Lost Ark** (CIC)
- 2 (2) **Porky's** (CBS/Fox)
- 3 (3) **48 HRS** (CIC)
- 4 (7) **Who Dares Wins** (Rank)
- 5 (8) **Tron** (Walt Disney)
- 6 (20) **Rocky III** (Warner)
- 7 (10) **Mary Poppins** (Walt Disney)
- 8 (5) **Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence** (Palace)
- 9 (4) **Gandhi** (RCA/Columbia)
- 10 (9) **Blade Runner** (Warner)
- 11 (13) **The Boys In Blue** (Rank)
- 12 (6) **The Entity** (CBS/Fox)
- 13 (14) **Firefox** (Warner)
- 14 (11) **The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas** (CIC)
- 15 (12) **Codename: The Soldier** (Embassy)
- 16 (16) **First Blood** (Thorn EMI)
- 17 (23) **Rocky II** (Warner)
- 18 (26) **Private Popsicle** (Guild)
- 19 (24) **10 To Midnight** (Guild)
- 20 (21) **The Hunger** (MGM/UA)

Compiled by MRIB for Video Business.  
Screen International chart.

## Thames, Granada discuss cable venture

PLANS are underway at Thames and Granada Television, two of Britain's largest ITV companies, to form a general entertainment channel for cable TV, writes Alex Sutherland.

Negotiations are still at a very early stage, and the formal approval of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has not yet been sought.

However Denis Flack, cable and satellite marketing director at Granada told *Screen International* this week that the companies believed they could start beaming the service to UK cable operators by the Autumn.

The Granada/Thames project plans to use the European Communications Satellite, ESC-1, which at the moment transmits Rupert Murdoch's Sky Channel to half a million homes in Europe, and will compete directly with the News International backed service.

### Network

Like Sky Channel, Thames and Granada will offer their new channel on the cable network as part of the basic tier service without extra charge on the subscription already paid by the viewers receiving it.

Unlike Sky though, the ITV cable channel is initially aimed solely at the UK market, and will therefore not attract pan-European advertising.

Sky Channel began its first transmissions in the UK — to 10,000 homes in Swindon — two weeks ago. The audience for the service has just risen again this week following approval from the Austrian authorities for cable company Telekabel Vienna to re-distribute Sky to 92,000 cable homes.

Programming consists predominantly of American imports like "Starsky And Hutch"

and "Charlie's Angels", and music programmes supplied by Thorn EMI's Music Box.

To begin with, Thames and Granada will also have to offer a large proportion of bought-in foreign material until union agreements enable them to start using their own programming.

When this happens, Granada and Thames feel they can easily improve on the Sky Channel offerings.

"Between the two companies we have the best two archives of British material, which has been relatively little exposed on ITV," said Flack.

## BRIEFLY

LONDON Weekend Television has commissioned a further 13 half-hour episodes of the science fiction fantasy series "Terrahawks" following the success of the first 13 episodes currently showing on the ITV networks.

A second series of the Anderson Burr Pictures production, made in association with LWT, has already been completed. Production of the third series starts on Jan 30 at Bray Studios.

THAMES TELEVISION International has been re-appointed as the distributor for selected ITV networked sports programmes, including "World Of Sport". The company obtained the first contract two years ago, and have now been re-appointed for a further two years to Dec 1985.

JANE LAPOTAIRE has had to withdraw from her role in Central's Malcolm Lowry documentary "Under The Volcano", and will be replaced by Sheila Brand.

EXCEL VIDEO, a worldwide film, programme distribution and production operation, has changed its name to Excel Telemedia International Corporation.

● "Terrorvision", a series of 156 horror dramas, running from eight to 10 minutes in length, are now in production and will be available for distribution by Excel Telemedia.

# Major deal for worldwide leasing

CBS/Fox Video and Intervision are to launch a joint video leasing operation for all territories outside North America.

By Terry Ilott

The heads of agreement, signed this week, also provides for CBS/Fox to take over the sales, distribution and manufacture of Intervision product in the UK.

The leasing joint venture, yet to be named, will be owned 50/50 by CBS/Fox and Intervision and will run for 15 years. The new company will be headed by Intervision chief executive Bev Ripley.

CBS/Fox will be equal partners in Intervision's two existing leasing subsidiaries, which have been operating in the UK since the middle of last year. Physical distribution of new joint leasing product will be undertaken by CBS/Fox's Perivale plant.

Both companies will place product into the venture, but the new company will also take material from other video distributors.

The move to form the joint venture follows the success of the leasing operations of Intervision and Videoform in the UK. According to Ripley, Intervision's

1,000 outlets may furnish a profit of up to £3 million in the first year.

"By adding the power and name of CBS/Fox to that operation we can double the outlets in the UK as well as moving on the major markets overseas," he told *Screen International*.

"We'll get moving in the UK, then Germany and Australia, followed by Portugal, France and so on. They're all in the same position of being ready for this move."

The joint venture faces stiff competition from Videoform in the UK but will have an open market before it in most of the other territories.

"We're going to become the headquarters of world leasing," predicted Ripley.

The leasing operation entails the company in furnishing its own rack of video cassettes to off-licences (Intervision has just finalised a deal with the Threshers

chain), garages and other non-specialist outlets, and restocking them on a regular basis thereafter. The retailer leases the complete rack of tapes from the distributor and charges overnight rental fees to customers. The operation is based on the jukebox system. Ripley describes it as being "complementary" to traditional

distribution through specialist video dealers.

The agreement whereby CBS/Fox will manufacture and distribute Intervision titles in the UK will run for five years and includes a guarantee of a specific number of major new releases per year from Intervision's theatrical arm, Alpha Films.

## Bright Bill likely to restructure BBFC

MAJOR CHANGES to the structure of the British Board of Film Censors (BBFC) seem likely if Graham Bright's Video Recordings Bill becomes law, writes Sue Newson-Smith.

Home Secretary Leon Brittan has already made it clear that he favours the BBFC as the classifying authority for video cassettes.

However, this proposal has been questioned by several MPs, discussing the Bill at committee stage.

At the committee's last meeting (Jan 18), Home Office Under Secretary David Mellor announced four new proposals in an attempt to ward off such criticism.

The proposals are:

1) Formation of a top BBFC management team consisting of a president, two vice presidents and a secretary. Although the Home Secretary will have a clear power of veto over any one of the four names, the Government do not think it right or consistent with the

Bill that the Home Secretary should himself name the four without anyone else having a say. The Government proposes to formalise the present informal arrangement by which the president and secretary are nominated by the cinematograph industry with the tradition of their names being acceptable to the Home Secretary.

2) *Examiners*. At present there are 12 part-time examiners. This number will be greatly expanded and there will be a clear and definite need for their range of experience to be greater than at present.

3) *Accountability*: The Government wants to see an advisory or consultative body broadly representative of the community. This would give the BBFC a formal body to which it could report — a formal report if the consultative committee wanted it.

4) *Appeals procedure*. There is

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THANK YOU TO  
THE WORKING  
PEOPLE — THE  
CAST AND UNIT of  
the  
YORKSHIRE  
TELEVISION  
PRODUCTION  
"THE GLORY  
BOYS"  
SEE YOU SOON —  
ROD STEIGER



## TV &amp; VIDEO

## NATIONAL RATINGS

THE NATIONAL ratings, produced for BARB by AGB, are for the week ending Sunday, Jan 8. Figures at the right are the number of people viewing, in millions.

## BBC1

1	The Two Ronnies	13.50
2	The Thorn Birds	11.95
3	Bergerac	11.70
4	News & Weather (Sun 21:41)	11.55
5	That's Life	11.40
6	Hi-De-Hi	10.75
7	News & Sport (Sat 21:45)	10.40
8	Whicker's World	10.25
9	Dallas	10.05
10	The Enemy Below	9.85
Audience share		36%

## BBC2

1	Poi Black '84	5.95
2	World Darts (Fri 22:06)	5.65
3	M.A.S.H.	3.95
4	The Mechanic	3.90
5	A Kick Up The Eighties	3.75
5	Slipper And The Rose	3.75
5	Topkapi	3.75
8	Dear Ladies' Masterclass	3.65
9	The World About Us	3.55
10	World Darts (Mon 21:57)	3.50
10	Captain Horatio Hornblower	3.50
Audience share		11%

## ITV

1	Thunderball (ITV)	16.65
2	Coronation Street (Wed) (Granada)	15.80
3	Coronation Street (Mon) (Granada)	14.90
4	Name That Tune (Thames)	13.95
5	Give Us A Clue (Thames)	13.00
6	This Is Your Life (Thames)	12.95
7	Up The Elephant & Round The Castle (Thames)	12.75
8	Crossroads (Wed) (Central)	12.35
9	3-2-1 (Yorks)	12.15
10	Crossroads (Tue) (Central)	12.00
Audience share		46%

## CHANNEL 4

1	The Far Pavilions (Thu)	4.90
2	The Far Pavilions (Wed)	4.80
3	The Far Pavilions (Tue)	4.35
4	Brookside (Wed)	3.05
5	Rosemary's Baby	2.65
6	Brookside (Tue)	2.45
7	Treasure Hunt	2.40
8	Cheers	2.15
9	Soap	1.75
10	American Football	1.60
Audience share		7%

## BREAKFAST TV

Reach (Millions)			
Mon-Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon-Sun
BBC Brkfst			
Time	3.7*	N/A	N/A
TV-am Good Morning Britain	5.6	3.0	6.8
Individuals (Millions)			
Peak Qtr.	Hr.	Audience	
Average Mon-Fri	Sat	Sun	
BBC1 Brkfst			
Time	1.2*	N/A	N/A
TV-am Good Morning Britain	1.3	1.2	0.8

\* Average Tue-Fri

## VCL in music video deal

VCL COMMUNICATIONS Ltd has reached a distribution agreement with PRT Records to distribute VCL's music video cassettes. The agreement was signed recently by VCL's sales director Alan Welch and PRT general manager Ian Holloway, with PRT sales representatives presenting the VCL music product.

VCL has welcomed the opportunity of being represented in music shops. Welch commented, "VCL is looking forward to a very substantial increase in music video cassette sales through the PRT deal. Because VCL music tapes will be presented to retailers who are musically oriented, our video cassettes will then be in record and music shops for those consumers who are buying VCL's type of product."

VCL's music catalogue in the video market includes Elton John, Tina Turner and Eddy Grant.

## Channel 4 to receive £111m IBA subscription

CHANNEL 4 is to receive a 9.4% increase in subscriptions from the ITV companies for the 1984/85 financial year.

## By Alex Sutherland

The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has settled for payments totalling £139 million, of which £111 million will go to C4 and £28 million to the Welsh fourth channel authority, S4C, which represents an 11.5% increase.

The ITV companies will also repay capital and interest charges together of £23.8 million on the £49 million loan arranged by the IBA to cover costs incurred before fourth channel transmissions began in November 1982.

Although neither the Independent Television Companies Association (ITCA) or C4 were jubilant about the sum, both sides welcomed the settlement as a reasonable compromise.

The ITCA had argued for £106 million, where as C4 was looking for £117 million.

In allocating the subscription among the 10 larger area ITV contractors, the IBA has laid greater emphasis than in previous

years on the share of advertising revenue earned by each company.

This has resulted in substantial rises in payments for some companies. Thames Television, for example must now pay £22.78 million in 1984/85 as compared to £19.59 million in the previous tax year.

The IBA, however, feels that this method of apportionment makes the basis of the allocation more explicit, and intends that this move towards calculating subscriptions based on revenue shares should be taken a step further next year.

The other large ITV companies' contributions are as follows: Granada (£18.83m), Central (£17.96m), London Weekend Television (£15.72m), TVS (£15.10m), Yorkshire (£13.56m) and Anglia (£8.08m).

Net advertising revenue for ITV as a whole in 1983 was £824m, a rise of 18.8%.

In view of their size, the subscriptions for the five smaller companies have been assessed on an individual basis, the IBA said.

C4's share of the UK television audience has remained at the 5% mark for much of last year. The figure did however rise to 7% for

the week ending Jan 8, and its reach (the number who watch at least one programme a month) is rising steadily: in the past year from about 60% to 76%.

When chief executive Jeremy Isaacs launched the channel in 1982, the aim was to reach a target of 10% after three years, representing the break-even point at which the channel could attract enough advertising to be effectively self-financing.

Isaacs' view has reportedly changed in recent weeks. He now believes the channel can be self-financing with a smaller audience.

The channel also plans to extend its broadcasting hours during the coming year. One possible extra programme would be midweek horse racing, to be introduced as early as March.

● Anglia Television Group results for the year to Oct 31 have merged better than expected following increased advertising in the second six months.

Pre-tax profits fell from £4.05m to £2.68m, because of an increase in the Channel 4 subscription from £2.13m to £6.52m. C4 payments did not become payable in full until January 1983 and were not matched by the channel's revenue.

## 'SuperTed' investment: two new series planned

SUPERTED, the Welsh cartoon character recently bought by Disney for US cable, has been given a further boost by a substantial investment from the National Coal Board's pension fund.

The deal, thought to be worth at least £2 million, represents the Coal Board's investment arm, CIN Industrial Investment's first direct venture into television production.

A new company, Telin Ltd, will be formed which will enable production of a further two series, and

give SuperTed a still better prospect of worldwide sales.

The first series, already seen on the Welsh fourth channel, S4C and BBC 1, was also screened over Christmas in France, and is proving attractive in many other countries.

## Demand

Some 20 companies in Wales now manufacture items connected with SuperTed and an estimated 150 jobs have so far been created, with more expected as demand and

number of companies grow.

Wales's animation industry was set up only two years ago by S4C in Cardiff's dockland. The SuperTed deal has assured the future of Siroil Animation, the first animation house to be established, for the next two years.

CIN is also involved in television and feature films through Goldcrest, and Acorn Pictures (producers of "Educating Rita"). The company's portfolio investment is worth in excess £100 million.

## Heathrow show participants

RANK VIDEO is launching a new budget label, ABC Video at the forthcoming Video Software Show (Heathrow, Jan 29—Feb 1).

The first 12 titles will be released at the show at a dealer price of £16.95, less usual discounts.

These include "The Birthday Party", Bob Fosse's "Cabaret", "Junior Bonner", "Song Of Norway", Woody Allen's "Take The Money And Run", "They Shoot Horses Don't They?", "The Last Valley" and "The Spy Killer".

On the regular Rank Video

label, "Young Doctors In Love" heads the Software Show releases.

Rank will also be including in its sale at the Heathrow Software Show some of the Orion titles released by the company over the past year, including "Starflight One", "Summer Lovers", "The Earthling", "Savage Sisters", "Friday Foster" and "Devil's Angels", available at reduced prices ranging from £20 to £14.

Longman Video will be launching a range of children's interest

and opera titles, headed by the popular animated science fiction series, "Battle Of The Planets".

CBS/Fox Video are withholding names of releases until Jan 29. Included in those launched at the show will be two 1983 box office smash hits and a variety of titles ranging from children's product to thrillers.

Videoform Pictures have taken substantial space at the Heathrow show. They will be promoting "Princess Daisy", based on the

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## Bright Bill

● From page 31

already one for cinematography. An appeals tribunal consisting of people ("of distinction and integrity") wholly independent of the video industry and the BBFC is proposed.

Mellor said that BBFC President Lord Harlech, with the approval of the standing committee, would pursue proposals about such a consultative committee.

Despite these revelations from the Government, the committee has still not approved Clause 4 (Authority to determine suitability of video works for showing) nor any amendments to it. Discussion centred on amendments to "nominate" the classification authority, as opposed to "designating" it. Worries about

giving the Home Secretary such wide powers in this field were aired.

In a surprise announcement last Friday, Brittan said the Government will be supporting amendments to the Video Recordings Bill that will totally ban "18R" category video recordings.

Speaking in Berwick-on-Tweed, Brittan said that having heard arguments on both sides of the question he had decided that sexually explicit material should not be available in the home.

"Even if it can be bought only by people over 18, once it enters the home there is no way of ensuring that children will not see it. The probability is that many will," he said.

The amendments tabled by Sir Bernard Braine (Con,

Castlepoint), were due to be discussed by the standing committee this week. Its 18 members are divided over the ban, some of them believing this an ideal opportunity for the criminal element to move in and create a black market in banned videos.

● The British Videogram Association this week accused the Home Secretary of creating "State censorship", and spoke of the "Government's almost hysterical attitude towards protecting children in the home" which could easily mean "that they will also try and ban '18' material, and even titles with a '15' certification".

The technicians' union, the ACTT has also expressed its concern that the problem of video nasties is controlled with the smallest possible extension of censorship.

## US TV NEWS

## Live 'M\*A\*S\*H' show takes to the road

"M\*A\*S\*H" can only be described as a phenomenon in US TV. It was a smash hit during its network run and it has been at the top of the ratings for syndicated programmes for several years. Now "M\*A\*S\*H" will take to the road this spring with a travelling live show that will visit more than 50 cities across the US. The "M\*A\*S\*H" Backstage Tour will use original props, sets and costumes and salute 20th Century-Fox's new series "Aftermath". A highlight of the travelling show will be a screen test which will allow people from the audience to assume the role of their favourite characters. Members of the "M\*A\*S\*H" cast will make personal appearances in selected cities.

## HBO launches \$15 million advertising programme

Home Box Office has launched a \$15 million advertising campaign to promote its 1984 programming. The campaign will also be aimed at overcoming negative attitudes many non-subscribers have for television in general with emphasis on pay TV and basic cable. Leading off HBO's 1984 schedule is the debut of the Academy Award winning "Sophie's Choice". Other films include "Stroker Ace", starring Burt Reynolds, and "Lovesick", featuring Dudley Moore. Set to premiere on HBO is "To Catch A King", a film based on a fascinating World War II adventure in which the Nazis implement a plot to kidnap the Duke of Windsor. Robert Wagner and Teri Garr star in the thriller.

Separately, HBO became the first corporation to develop a course in office automation that carries college credit from the New York Board of Regents. The 78-hour course was developed by HBO to provide hands-on word processing training for its employees.

## Kuhn appointed to RCA Video Productions

Thomas Kuhn has been appointed to head RCA Video Productions, a newly formed unit of RCA Records. The new production division will create music-oriented product for the fast growing home video market. Projects will include videos to be sold both in the US and abroad.

## WTBS (Atlanta): 'Least amount of violence'

A two-year international study on TV violence found that of all the commercial TV stations in the world, Turner Broadcasting's SuperStation WTBS in Atlanta carries the least amount of violent programming. The study was conducted by the International Coalition Against Violent Entertainment (ICAWE), a coalition of groups from eight different countries. ICAWE monitored 30 networks around the world, both public and commercial and found US programming on the average was four times more violent than Australian, British, Canadian or German. WTBS won high marks from the coalition for its large amount of documentary and educational programmes and its commitment to all-family entertainment. Among the US networks, only the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) scored higher in lack of violent programming.

## Durning signs for NBC comedy series

Multi-award winning actor Charles Durning has been signed by Embassy to star in a comedy TV series under development for the NBC network. Eight years ago Durning starred in the short-lived series "The Cop And The Kid". Durning has played in many films, including "To Be Or Not To Be" (currently nominated for a 1983 Golden Globe), "Tootsie", "The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas" (for which he received an Oscar), "Streamers" and "Starting Over", just to name a few.

## Warner-Amex Cable in move to cut expenses

Warner-Amex Cable has taken another step to slash expenses; it has announced plans to end the daily satellite feeds of interactive programming on its Qube systems in six major US cities. The move will affect 325,000 subscribers in Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston, Pittsburgh, Columbus and St Louis. Warner-Amex recently took steps to reduce its franchise commitments in Milwaukee and Dallas. It seems that cable TV operation is not as rosy as it once was.

## NCTA set convention date in Las Vegas

The National Cable Television Association has set its 33rd annual convention for June 3 — 6 in Las Vegas. The theme of the conference will be "Cable: The Consumers' Choice". More than 16,000 are expected to attend, and exhibits of software and hardware suppliers are expected to cover 200,000 square feet.

## CBS boosts 1984/85 season with \$150 million

CBS has said it will put a record \$150 million into made-for-TV movies and mini-series for the 1984/85 season. Included in the expenditure are more than 40 pictures and about 35 hours of mini-series. The number one network has also set deals to produce 18 pilots for the upcoming season.

## GE and RCA enter home video market

COMING ON THE heels of Kodak's entry into the home video market with a new small home camera, both General Electric and RCA have announced plans to enter the arena with new home video cameras designed for the amateur home video buff. GE's new unit will be manufactured by Japan's Matsushita and will use the same 8mm video tape cassette format that will be used by Kodak. The price was not specified but it is expected to be in the \$1,500 range and will include a playback unit. RCA's new camera will use half-inch tape that will play for as long as eight hours on current Beta or VHS format. Hatachi Ltd, also in Japan, will produce RCA's new camera — which is expected to sell for under \$1,000.

## Joint DBS venture on the cards

TWO OF THE front runners in the direct broadcast satellite business, CBS Inc and Communications Satellite Inc, have said that they are considering a joint venture to broadcast programmes directly to homes via satellite.

By Ron Krueger