

NFB film a sensitive look at youth with cancer

There was definitely a doctor in the house Thursday night at the National Film Board.

As a matter of fact, there were several doctors in the house.

Dr. Michael Whitehead from the Montreal Children's Hospital and his wife, Sheila, Dr. William Feindel from the Montreal Neurological Institute and his wife, Faith, Dr. Brian Leyland Jones, director of oncology at McGill University, Dr. Joe Shuster from the Montreal General Hospital and his wife, Ibby, who is a nurse at the Jewish General Hospital, and Dr. Max Palayew and Dr. Alexander Zukowski, both from the Jewish General, were among the medicos who attended a private screening of the film *Princes in Exile* at the NFB head office.

Other guests at the screening were Marvin and Sheila Kussner, Dr. Barbara Sourkes, Ann Birks, Joan McKim, Evi Stern, Edwina Eddy, Jessica Miller and her daughter, Sheryl, Ted and Susan Polisuk, Brenda Norris, Lorne Gales, Don and Barbara Seal, and Brigitta Brittain, widow of the late Donald Brittain.

Princes in Exile is the poignant story of a shy 17-year-old boy who has cancer. It's based on a novel written by Mark Schreiber, who flew in from Cincinnati to attend the screening.

Director Giles Walker and Government Film Commissioner Joan Pennefeather introduced the film, which was co-produced by the National Film Board and Cinepix.

When producer John Dunning first asked Walker to direct the film, he was reluctant. Having lost his first wife to cancer, Walker was unsure how he would handle a script about terminally ill children.

"After a great deal of procrastination, I finally read the book," he recalled. "It was a terrific story, very touching and very moving."

Once he had committed himself



**TOMMY
SCHNURMACHER**

to the project, Walker visited Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang camp for kids with cancer.

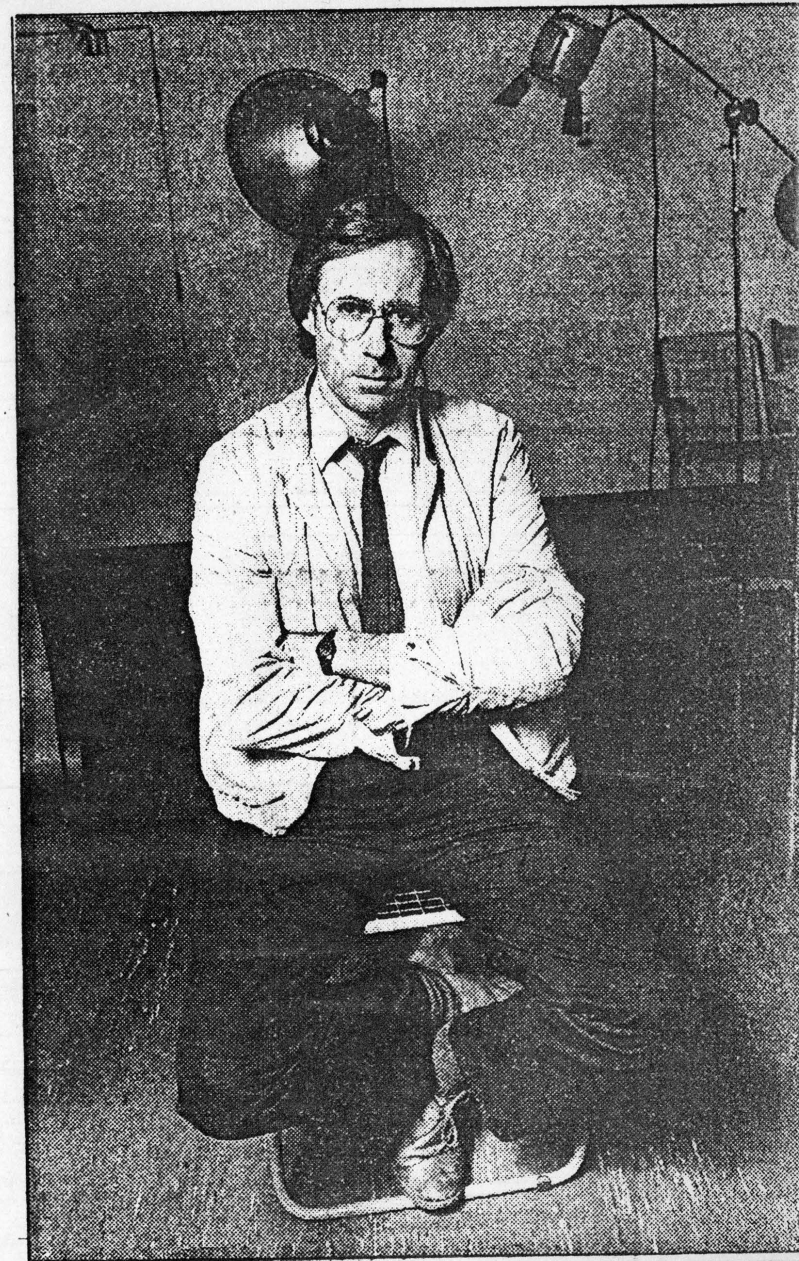
"That visit was one of the most inspiring experiences in my life," said Walker. "I left exhilarated. It was then that I could bring something worthwhile to the production."

Set in a summer camp for children with cancer, the film is a very sensitive and moving treatment of a difficult subject.

It's also a radical departure for Cinepix, whose previous films with camp settings were more along the lines of *Meatballs* and other escapist comedies.

Princes in Exile will be screened across Canada at a series of fundraising evenings prior to its telecast on the CBC this fall.

Shot on location in Montreal, the film stars Zachary Ansley, Stacy Mistysyn, Alexander Chapman, Nicholas Shields and Chuck Shama-ta.



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO, RICHARD ARLESS

Giles Walker's film "Princes of Exile" will be telecast on CBC this fall.