

# CFCN show aims to round up a cowboy song

□ Ian Tyson takes a look at real life out on the range

On Boxing Day, CFCN gets to show off its production capabilities with a one-hour documentary called *The Working Cowboy: In Search of a Cowboy Song*.

Ian Tyson narrates this nicely packaged look at a breed that's been "dying" for several generations but just seems to hang on.

CFCN crews spent more than a year sporadically travelling around the foothills and mountains of Alberta and British Columbia, gathering first-rate footage of spring branding, roundups, chuckwagon meals and rainy-day singing around the campfire.

Besides Alberta locations, one of the stops is B.C.'s Gang Ranch, founded in 1861. It's 90 miles by 40 miles, and being its "cowboss" is considered the continent's top cowboy job.

Tyson injects some of his amiable music. His performances are interspersed among views of running horses, country roads at sunset and a cattle auction.

The program challenges some of the romanticism of cowboy life. These rugged hands fight dust, rain, cold and fatigue for about \$700 a month.

But it provides a compelling look at their way of life, and somehow it makes sense when you hear these men talk about why they do it.

CFCN doesn't need to make any apologies for *The Working*

## TELEVISION

**Bob Blakey**

Herald columnist



**THE WORKING COWBOY, 8 p.m. Wednesday on Ch. 4-5.**

**THE PROM, 8 p.m. Jan. 6 on Ch. 9-6.**

Cowboy as a local production.

The show has been snapped up in such cities as Detroit, Dallas, Houston, Nebraska, Spokane and Seattle, and various stations and networks in other countries are negotiating for rights.

★ ★ ★

A teenage girl's nightmare is the basis for a new CBC comedy/drama film called *The Prom*.

The one-hour story stars Stacie Mistysyn (*Degrassi High*) as Rebecca, a 15-year-old nervously

contemplating the upcoming prom.

She has a new dress, sharp hairdo and a date with a cousin's good-looking friend, a basketball team captain.

But when he busts his knee, a last-minute substitute is found — a nice guy named Ralph (Sean Roberge).

The accident-prone Ralph leads Rebecca on a bizarre trail of disasters, making it look, for most of the story, as if they'll never make it to the dance alive.

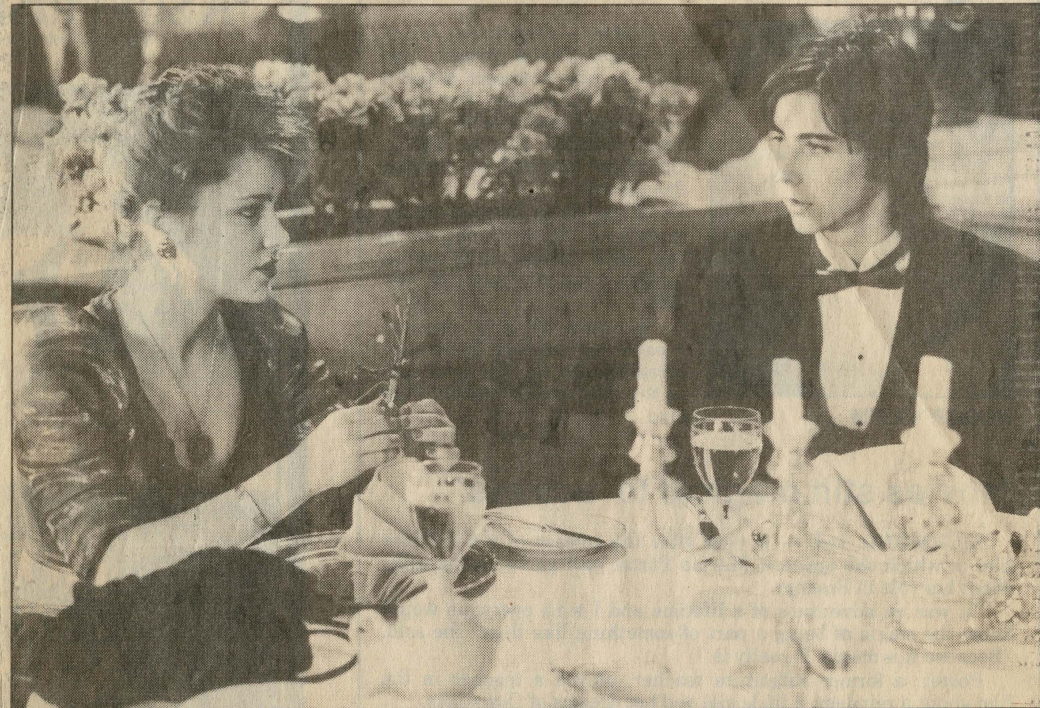
Although predictable in places, *The Prom* is an appealing story — well-acted and connecting with more memories than most viewers would care to admit.

★ ★ ★

If TV watching is on your New Year's Eve schedule, consider CFCN.

Ch. 4-5 is planning live coverage of the Municipal Plaza festivities in Calgary, starting at 11:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

The countdown will be hosted by Barb Higgins and Darrel Janz, Calgary's only surviving co-anchor news team.



**THE PROM:** Stacie Mistysyn is Rebecca and Sean Roberge is Ralph, her accident-prone date