

## WRITERS' STRIKE

## American networks eye shows in Canada

By LEE-ANNE GOODMAN  
The Canadian Press

TORONTO — The ongoing screenwriters strike in the United States has had an undeniable impact in Canada — American shows filming here are shutting down due to a lack of scripts, throwing hundreds out of work amid fears that a prolonged strike could damage the entire North American film and TV industry.

But there's been one bright spot on an otherwise bleak horizon: American broadcasters are eagerly eyeing Canadian shows as diverse as Little Mosque on the Prairie, Durham County and The Border, a new CBC drama that premieres in January.

"We've actually had inquiries from the U.S. networks about shows that we've either produced or are going into production on, so it's been interesting — they're looking for alternatives," Kirstine Layfield, head of network programming for CBC, said Monday.

"The U.S. is the hardest nut to crack. They are the most parochial of markets in the world — they buy no British, no Canadian, no anything. Because they're so obviously self-reliant, when this happens they all of a sudden have to look outside themselves, and that's what's happening right now."

Except for The Border, Layfield didn't want to name the CBC shows piquing the interest of American broadcasters due to ongoing negotiations. But Mary Darling, head of Westwind Productions, says Little Mosque is getting some attention.

She disputed a recent assertion by the president of the Writers Guild of Canada that Canadian producers are "dreaming in Technicolor" and entertaining some "weird pipe dream" if they think American networks are going to buy their shows.

"It's not a pipe dream," Darling said, adding that the longer the strike drags on, the more it could benefit Canadian producers eager to crack the massive and lucrative American market.

"In fact, the possibility does exist. There are two different networks looking at Little Mosque right now. We've heard from people I never expected to hear from directly ... there's been a definite increase in interest since the strike."

CTV programming president Susanne Boyce said American broadcasters have long been interested in Corner Gas, and says negotiations are continuing throughout the strike.

Where does that leave the writers for some of those Canadian shows? The Writers Guild of Canada and the Writers Guild of America share 265 dual members — mostly Canadian writers in the U.S. who are now on strike. Hundreds of other WGC members in Canada are standing in solidarity with their American counterparts.

In Vancouver, the Writers Guild of America is striking against television shows being shot there, including Bionic Woman, Battlestar Galactica — both of which have ceased production — and Smallville. Those shut-downs have put about 200 people out of work.

**The Kamloops Pipe Band Society is holding their Annual General Meeting, on November 21, 2007, at the North Shore Community Center on Cottonwood Ave. it will start at 6:30 pm. All members welcome, please come out and have your voice heard. We will be voting in a new executive, and discussing events and new business, for the upcoming year. Hope to see you all out! For more info., please call 573-2544.**

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## Bolshoy earns bravo with Spanish Flair

By MIKE YOUNDS  
Daily News Staff Reporter

About 1,500 concertgoers in White Rock and Kamloops queued up to hear Kamloops Symphony Orchestra's Spanish Flair in concert with classical guitar soloist Daniel Bolshoy over the weekend.

Both concerts were virtual sellouts, a testament to the broad appeal of music that wears its heart on its sleeve and a soloist who thrives in the spotlight.

The genial Bolshoy — an Israeli-Canadian of Russian extraction — introduces his pieces with a casual demeanour. He blends humour with history, cutting through the usual formality of symphonic tradition to help audiences better appreciate the music.

Musical director Bruce Dunn, who normally does the same, thrust the microphone straight to his soloist to usher in Concerto #1 in D for guitar and orchestra by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

The Jewish composer wrote the serene concerto in homage to his native Tuscany when persecution forced him to leave Italy under Fascist rule. Bolshoy offered the alternative concert title of "Don Quixote meets Star Wars," a reference to the influence on contemporary film composer John Williams (Star Wars, Fiddler on the Roof), who was a student of Castelnuovo-Tedesco's.

Careful attention to acoustical balance and amplification evidently paid off. Every note was resonant and defined as Bolshoy's hands massaged his guitar strings. He immerses himself in the music, physically projecting the depth of its emotion with reverie while his virtuosity flows as though it were an instinctive force.

The concert opened with orchestra only playing Sinfonia a Gran Orquesta by Juan Crisostomo De Arriaga, a Spanish composer and child prodigy often compared to Mozart. He was just shy of 20 when he died.

What makes Arriaga's musical legacy all the more remarkable is that it sounds classically European, not Spanish. His overture, Los Esclavos Felices (The Happy Slaves), which opened the second half of the concert, was simply beautiful, again a



DANIEL BOLSHOY

richly cosmopolitan mixture of influences. He wrote the opera at age 13 and only the overture survives.

Joaquin Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez, perhaps the best known piece in the concert, was also a highlight of the evening. Bolshoy's solo during the second movement, Adagio, was filled with a pathos spoken through the universal language of guitar.

Received a standing ovation, the soloist returned to perform two encore selections, ending with a jazzy waltz by Brazilian guitarist/composer Sergio Assad, and a friendly farewell wave from the edge of the stage.

Right on the heels of this success, the KSO presents Viennese Landscapes, the second in its chamber series, on Saturday at Calvary Community Church.

## Kidman says paparazzi left her in tears

SYDNEY, Australia — Nicole Kidman told a courtroom Monday how she was reduced to tears and feared a car accident after a celebrity photographer pursued her two years ago.

Kidman, who divides her time between Los Angeles and her hometown of Sydney, Australia, was testifying in the photographer's defamation suit against a Sydney newspaper that slammed him for allegedly hounding the Oscar-winning actress.

Kidman wore a grey knee-length skirt, cream-coloured blouse and pale pink cardigan. She had her long, curly hair

drawn up in a loose bun and appeared calm and composed during the session in the New South Wales state Supreme Court.



KIDMAN

home in another part of the city for dinner on Jan. 23, 2005.

Kidman described hunkering down in a car's back seat — leaning over in her chair in

the witness stand to demonstrate — to try to avoid being spotted by photographer Jamie Fawcett.

She said the trip quickly turned into a hair-raising chase as a vehicle carrying Fawcett and another vehicle, believed to contain his assistant, lurched through traffic around Kidman's car.

"I was frightened and I was worried there was going to be an accident," Kidman said.

Kidman said she was "really, really scared" during the car ride and that she was "in tears and distressed" by the time she reached her parents' house.

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## HEATHER MILLS

## McCartney's ex calls for cutting out meat, dairy

LONDON — Heather Mills McCartney got steamed up over milk and other dairy products while her estranged husband, Paul McCartney, joined a more modest effort to save a local post office.

Mills McCartney, 39, focused on the environmental impact of deforestation and livestock on global warming, citing figures from animal rights group Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (Viva!).

"When (Viva!) told me it was 18 per cent, that's more than all global transport, I was in shock. Airplanes only bring three per cent, while they are being picked on with taxes," she said Monday.

She asked people to "cut down on one or two meat and dairy and fish dishes a week."

"We are the only species that drinks another person's milk, so why aren't we drinking rat's milk, or dog's milk, or cat's milk, that's how crazy it is," she said.

"It's mad that we are having cow's milk. Even cows don't drink it after one year but we continue forever."

She has posed for a poster for the Viva! campaign, headlined: "Hey, Meaty, you're making me so hot!"

Meanwhile, Paul McCartney, 65, threw his support to a campaign to prevent the closing of a post office in Lower Heswall, five kilometres southwest of Liverpool, near one of his homes.

"This village post office is a vital part of local community life and as such should be saved for future generations to cherish. Its 100-year history should not be cast aside lightly," the ex-Beatle said in a message read outside the post office by his brother Mike.

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