

Belgium

Cable carrying on

The Flemish federation of cable distributors has decided to continue carrying the signals of Spain's TVE and Italy's RAI-TV through its cable networks after a dispute over authors' rights. A federation spokesman said: "We have been given evidence that both stations are now regularizing their agreements with the authors' rights associations."

'Freejack' Fantasy

The 10th Brussels International Festival of Fantasy Films (March 6-21) is presenting a special selection of award-winning pictures of the last decade. Honorary guests James Coburn and Dominique Sanda will be joined by directors including Clive Donner, Mike Figgis and Jean Claude Brisseau. Martin Scorsese's "Cape Fear" opened the fest while "Freejack," by Geoff Murphy, will close.

— Marc Mees

Brazil

Price is right

With attendance traditionally low during Carnival, movie houses in Rio drastically reduced their prices of \$2.60 and \$3.20 to 65 cents for all shows last week, even though Oscar-nominated films like "JFK," "Prince of Tides" and "Thelma & Louise" were playing. Leading the movement was the Luis Severiano Ribeiro Group with 34 local theaters, Art Films with 12, CIC Theatres with four and the Darze Group with five cinemas.

— Miriam Alencar

Mexico

Once and for all

Oliver Stone's "JFK" had a special one-day showing at the Cineteca Nacional (Mexican Film Archives) theater in February to help raise money for Cineteca's construction of fireproof vaults for films. The eight shows attracted over 4,000 people and took in about \$12,800. Cineteca split the take with the film's Mexican distributor.

Loera plans co-prods

The director of Imcine (Mexican Film Institute), Ignacio Doran Loera, this year plans to support from 10 to 12 films, including co-productions with Hollywood and Canada. Doran Loera added that Mexico is increasing its presence on the international scene with 40 Mexican films playing at international film festivals in 1991.

Third party action

The National Association of Actors (ANDA) and the National Association of Interpreters (ANDI) as well as unions from the U.S. and Canada were represented at the Third Congress of Actor Unions, which took place here last week. ANDI, the union of TV, video and commercial singers and actors, worked on agreements to protect the interest of their members in the U.S. and Canada.

STIC sells cinema

The Union of Film Industry Workers (STIC) has sold its Victor Manuel Mendoza movie house for \$190,000 to Ramon Ojeda Mestre and the Magdalena Contreras borough government. The theater will screen "the best high erotic content films," at night owl screenings starting at 11 p.m. During the day, they will be showing Mexican film classics as well as retrospectives of leading Mexican actors and actresses.

— Emil Zubryn

China, Taiwan in co-prod talks

BY LI HUI

BEIJING — For the first time in over 40 years, a movie team from mainland China will likely be allowed into Taiwan to shoot the film "Illusion," a China-Taiwan co-production.

The "Illusion" team is planning to go to Taiwan later this month and work for 10 days.

Lu Xiaowei, who became popular in the mainland for directing the acclaimed 50-part series "Expectations," is set to helm the project. Lin Qingxia, a famous Taiwanese ac-



trix and Jiang Wen, of the mainland, are set to star.

Project details were discussed recently by a non-government delegation of Taiwanese movie and TV producers and distributors during a weeklong visit in Beijing and Shanghai.

Representing the mainland was also a non-governmental organization. But the committee's close connections with the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television introduced some top-level government officials into talks and discussions with the Taiwan delegation.

The possibility of promoting movie and television exchanges was discussed at these meetings, and both

sides agreed that the "Illusion" project would, if successful, open a two-way direct cultural exchange across the strait.

The cultural exchanges between the two sides have been a one-way business. No mainland movie has been allowed a Taiwan release — not even those co-produced with Taiwan. However, the mainland has distributed and released more than 30 Taiwan movies in the past six years, said Xue Gujizhi, head of the administrative office of the State Film Bureau under the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television.

She said the mainland has also purchased and broadcast 19 Taiwan telefilms, one-quarter of the total TV programs imported from outside the mainland during the same six years.

Taiwan authorities did not permit any film and TV crews from the mainland to work in Taiwan until last August, when its "information office" issued a new regulation which stated that it will permit such visits. The "Illusion" project is seen as a test on the regulation.

Hong Kong seeks free press

HONG KONG (AP) — The legislature asked the British colonial government Wednesday to repeal laws that give authorities the power to shut newspapers, radio and television stations in Hong Kong.

If the laws remain, they will be inherited by the Chinese government, which resumes control of Hong Kong in 1997. Legislators fear China could use the laws in a crackdown.

Hong Kong's chief secretary, Sir David Ford, dismissed the legislators' request, saying he believed "the community would wish the government to have necessary power to deal with an emergency situation."

He also said he saw no need for a freedom of information act here.

Members of Hong Kong's law-making body, the Legislative Council, voted unanimously to urge the government to strike down sections of law that give the administration power to muzzle the media in event of an emergency or martial law.

Legislator Emily Lau, a former journalist, led the drive to pass the resolution, which was not legally binding.

In what some local reporters said was a sign of China's intentions toward the press, Chinese officials recently hinted they wanted to use the colony's Radio Television Hong Kong as the official mouthpiece of Beijing after 1997.

Theater owners, producers, distributors settle differences

BY OSKAR SALAZAR

MANILA, The Philippines — A boycott of first-run cinemas in Metro Manila by the country's two film producers and distributors associations did not take place as planned.

The boycott, scheduled for Feb. 20, would have been a first in Philippine cinema history. There are 233 first-run cinemas in Metro Manila, with an average weekend take of \$1.15 million.

The boycott, which would have required all members of the PMPPA and the IMPIDAP (the producers and distributors associations) to hold back local and foreign films, fizzled when the theaters gave in to three of the boycott demands.

First, revenues due the producers/distributors will be sent within 14 days after submission of statements of account.



Secondly, the cost of lobby displays and in-theater promotions will now be shouldered by the theater owners.

And third, the net shares of the producers/distributors in the theater revenues will be higher, using a new sliding scale. Asked for was an increase of 11% in the lowest bracket (50/50 sharing of the net revenue) and an increase of 3% in the highest levels (65/35 sharing, the larger portion for the producers/distributors). The theater owners granted an increase of 1½% in the highest bracket and an across-the-board subsidy of 25 centavos (.01 cent) for every admission.

"B pictures will benefit most from the third concession," said Joey Pineda, president of IMPIDAP.

"The sharing in the lower bracket was 40/60, with the larger share going to the theaters. Now it's 50/50. Small producers and distributors received an increase of 10%, while the biggest films come off with only 1½%."

Morato resigns from review board

MANILA, The Philippines — Manuel P. Morato has resigned as chairman of the Movie & TV Review and Classification Board, which he helmed since July 1986, to run as senator in the national elections under Lakas EDSA, May 11.

Lakas EDSA is the political party being supported by President Corazon Aquino, whose term ends in June.

Morato's foray into politics is generating much flak, since he has often stated that he's not interested in taking political office. He has also been reported as saying that actors have no business going into politics "because they're unprofessional, unqualified and their moral stand-

ing is questionable."

Despite Morato's sweeping pronouncement, an unprecedented number of show business stars are trying their luck in the May 11 elections, led by Senator Joseph Estrada, who is a presidential candidate, and Ramon Revilla, Tito Sotto, Chiquito and Eddie Ilarde who, like Morato, are running for the Senate.

Morato it seems is not getting any support from the film industry for his bold stance on several public issues. He wants film censorship back. "There should be a law to penalize the producers of pornographic films," he said. "The electric chair is for them." — Oskar Salazar

| THIS WEEK | LAST WEEK | INTERNATIONAL Boxoffice Charts | WKS. IN RELEASE | NO. OF SCREENS | BOXOFFICE THIS WEEK | BOXOFFICE LAST WEEK | BOXOFFICE TOTAL |
|--|-----------|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| All boxoffice figures are in U.S. Dollars | | | | | | | |
| PICTURE U.S./FOREIGN DISTRIBUTOR | | | | | | | |
| UNITED KINGDOM BOXOFFICE (Week ending March 5, 1992) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE WARNER BROS | 2 | 227 | \$1,943,507 | \$3,351,013 | \$5,294,520 |
| 2 | — | THE PRINCE OF TIDES COLUMBIA/TRISTAR | 1 | 173 | \$1,634,233 | — | \$1,634,233 |
| 3 | 3 | MY GIRL COLUMBIA TRISTAR | 5 | 235 | \$1,435,591 | \$2,448,658 | \$9,888,153 |
| 4 | 4 | STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY UIP | 3 | 215 | \$1,219,548 | \$1,845,815 | \$5,656,651 |
| 5 | — | THE LOST BOY SCOUT WARNER BROS | 1 | 199 | \$1,181,932 | — | \$1,181,932 |
| 6 | 2 | SNOW WHITE AND THE 7 DWARFS WARNER BROS/DISNEY | 3 | 286 | \$1,080,651 | \$2,778,946 | \$5,550,895 |
| 7 | — | FRANKIE & JOHNNY UIP | 7 | 86 | \$199,232 | \$411,375 | \$5,661,951 |
| 8 | 6 | BILL & TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY COLUMBIA TRISTAR | 7 | 112 | \$196,117 | \$411,375 | \$6,909,969 |
| 9 | — | BARTON FINK RANK | 1 | 19 | \$189,896 | — | \$189,896 |
| 10 | 9 | DOUBLE IMPACT COLUMBIA TRISTAR | 5 | 75 | \$144,915 | \$284,778 | \$2,977,603 |
| Computed at US1 = 0.59 pounds sterling, 7-day gross/*weekend. | | | | | | | |
| FRANCE BOXOFFICE (Week ending February 25, 1992) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | JFK WARNER BROS | 4 | 71 | \$1,034,474 | \$1,156,115 | \$5,658,797 |
| 2 | 1 | LE BAL DES CASSE-PIEDS GAUMONT | 2 | 87 | \$998,843 | \$1,167,979 | \$2,166,821 |
| 3 | 4 | SNOW WHITE AND THE 7 DWARFS WARNER BROS | 2 | 82 | \$919,418 | \$936,373 | \$1,875,791 |
| 4 | 3 | L'AMANT AMLF | 5 | 64 | \$793,026 | \$969,328 | \$7,641,196 |
| 5 | 5 | SHADOWS & FOG COLUMBIA | 2 | 42 | \$696,287 | \$827,387 | \$1,523,675 |
| 6 | 6 | THE LAST BOY SCOUT WARNER BROS | 2 | 55 | \$643,051 | \$779,057 | \$1,442,108 |
| 7 | — | BETTY MK2 | 1 | 46 | \$511,310 | — | \$511,310 |
| 8 | 7 | FRANKIE & JOHNNY UIP | 3 | 38 | \$398,745 | \$534,076 | \$1,712,440 |
| 9 | 8 | HIGH HEELS UGC | 6 | 34 | \$369,187 | \$381,772 | \$3,692,710 |
| 10 | — | AMOUREUSE AMLF | 1 | 24 | \$306,967 | — | \$306,967 |
| US1 = 5.0 FF, 7-day gross/ Metro Paris & 12 key cities | | | | | | | |
| GERMANY BOXOFFICE (Week ending March 1, 1992) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | JFK WARNER BROS | 6 | 298 | \$1,213,192 | \$1,408,679 | \$10,863,033 |
| 2 | — | CAPE OF FEAR UNIVERSAL/UIP | 1 | 240 | \$895,509 | — | \$895,509 |
| 3 | — | PRINCE OF TIDES COLUMBIA/TRISTAR | 1 | 250 | \$705,550 | — | \$705,550 |
| 4 | 2 | KNIGHT MOVES CINEVOX/WARNER BROS | 7 | 260 | \$530,044 | \$776,390 | \$7,555,010 |
| 5 | 3 | MY GIRL COLUMBIA TRISTAR | 8 | 324 | \$347,068 | \$542,825 | \$11,018,171 |
| 6 | 5 | ADDAMS FAMILY PARAMOUNT/COLUMBIA TRISTAR | 6 | 254 | \$281,091 | \$350,248 | \$4,462,979 |
| 7 | — | SHADOWS AND FOG COLUMBIA/TRISTAR | 1 | 84 | \$257,076 | — | \$257,076 |
| 8 | 4 | DEAD AGAIN PARAMOUNT/UIP | 2 | 133 | \$221,098 | \$473,203 | \$866,269 |
| 9 | 6 | LITTLE MAN TATE ORION/COLUMBIA TRISTAR | 4 | 118 | \$137,617 | \$294,968 | \$1,497,942 |
| 10 | 7 | CURLY SUE WARNER BROS | 12 | 188 | \$120,276 | \$238,521 | \$9,819,331 |
| Computed at US1 = DM 1.64, 4-day weekend | | | | | | | |
| AUSTRALIA BOXOFFICE (Week ending March 4, 1992) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 4 | THE PRINCE OF TIDES COLUMBIA | 1* | 82 | \$713,373 | \$292,391 | \$1,047,764 |
| 2 | 1 | JFK WARNER BROS | 6 | 71 | \$440,664 | \$564,456 | \$4,136,612 |
| 3 | — | BLACK ROBE HOYTS | 1 | 49 | \$287,056 | — | \$287,056 |
| 4 | 2 | FREEJACK ROADSHOW | 2 | 89 | \$283,670 | \$451,616 | \$736,896 |
| 5 | 3 | CAPE FEAR UIP | 8 | 95 | \$273,606 | \$381,112 | \$5,354,094 |
| 6 | 7 | THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE TOUCHSTONE | 10 | 47 | \$202,455 | \$225,261 | \$6,142,349 |
| 7 | 6 | HOT SHOTS/DROP DEAD (double bill) FOX/REP | 2 | 60 | \$191,126 | \$255,530 | \$447,330 |
| 8 | 5 | FRANKIE & JOHNNY UIP | 4 | 59 | \$187,754 | \$280,484 | \$1,368,322 |
| 9 | 8 | POINT BREAK FOX | 9 | 62 | \$124,057 | \$178,020 | \$5,465,997 |
| 10 | 9 | SHATTERED ROADSHOW | 4 | 28 | \$88,867 | \$122,267 | \$680,559 |
| Computed at US1 = AU\$1.34, 7-day gross / *previews | | | | | | | |
| JAPAN BOXOFFICE (Week ending February 27, 1992) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | — | BUGSY COLUMBIA | 1 | 8 | \$537,264 | — | \$537,264 |
| 2 | 1 | DEAD AGAIN UIP/PARAMOUNT | 3 | 7 | \$275,239 | \$361,839 | \$1,136,086 |
| 3 | 2 | HOT SHOTS! 20TH CENTURY FOX | 11 | 6 | \$145,754 | \$178,345 | \$4,765,345 |
| 4 | 3 | FRANKIE & JOHNNY UIP/PARAMOUNT | 5 | 6 | \$126,634 | \$161,147 | \$1,100,553 |
| 5 | — | ACES TOHO-TOWA | 1 | 6 | \$122,192 | — | \$122,192 |
| 6 | 4 | THE DOCTOR WARNER BROS/BUENA VISTA | 2 | 7 | \$121,541 | \$136,106 | \$257,647 |
| 7 | 6 | TERMINATOR 2: JUDGMENT DAY TOHO-TOWA | 27 | 4 | \$111,082 | \$105,856 | \$22,341,244 |
| 8 | 5 | HARLEY DAVIDSON/MARLBORO MAN HERALD | 6 | 3 | \$101,316 | \$116,172 | \$995,357 |
| 9 | — | IF THE SHOE FITS HERALD | 1 | 2 | \$88,585 | — | \$88,585 |
| 10 | 7 | BOYZ N THE HOOD COLUMBIA | 3 | 4 | \$87,175 | \$103,318 | \$351,502 |
| Computed at US1 = 130 Yen, 7-day gross. | | | | | | | |
| HONG KONG BOXOFFICE (Week ending March 4, 1992) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | CASINO TYCOON NEW TOWN | 3* | 24 | \$416,233 | \$949,763 | \$2,306,079 |
| 2 | 10 | IT'S A MAD MAD MAD WORLD TOO REGAL | 1* | 26 | \$385,536 | \$68,797 | \$452,333 |
| 3 | 5 | CENTER STAGE GOLDEN HARVEST | 2 | 12 | \$319,006 | \$298,275 | \$617,281 |
| 4 | 2 | TRUANT HERO GALA | 4 | 24 | \$290,863 | \$591,914 | \$1,461,268 |
| 5 | — | ESCAPE FROM BROTHER PERTH | 1 | 10 | \$272,073 | — | \$272,073 |
| 6 | — | GANGS '92 NEWPORT | * | 27 | \$175,247 | — | \$175,247 |
| 7 | — | THE SUPER NORMAL REGAL | * | 26 | \$114,229 | — | \$114,229 |
| 8 | — | GIGOLO AND WHORE II GOLDEN PRINCESS | * | 30 | \$110,173 | — | \$110,173 |
| 9 | 6 | EROTIC GHOST STORY III GALA | 1* | 28 | \$108,303 | \$157,281 | \$265,583 |
| 10 | 7 | WHEN RIE MET HA HA UNITED | 2 | 8 | \$87,411 | \$140,849 | \$228,260 |
| Computed at US1 = HK\$7.80, 7-day gross/*Includes Pre-Release Show | | | | | | | |

Germany

'Rising' to the occasion

Deutscher Fernsehfunk (DFF Berlin), the former East German TV station, bowed out in grand style with their last commissioned telefilm programmed in the Berlinale competition (Feb. 13-24): Vadim Glowna's "Rising to the Bait," co-produced by Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR Hamburg) and starring Elsa Grube-Deister in a satire on East Germans wising up to the capitalist tricks of West Germans.

Commercial success

As of last week, CNN is transmitting German language commercials in the 750,000-household Berlin cable system. A 30-second spot costs \$175.

License rewarded

The first private radio station in eastern Germany, Radio Arkona, has been licensed in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Among the shareholders are Heinrich Bauer Verlag, Germany's biggest magazine publisher and Gong group.

Byg ideas

Rudi Winter of Progress Film-Verleih, the distribution arm of the DEFA Studios, conferred during the Berlinale with Barton Byg of the University of Massachusetts about setting up a non-commercial distribution office in North America. It appears that not only German departments at U.S. universities are interested, but also several university professors, who need films that examine the historical facts surrounding the former GDR.

Spending money

Public TV channel ZDF will spend \$1.2 billion this year, 19.3% more than in 1991. This year's license fee increase has put an additional \$160 million into the channel's coffers. Some \$60 million will be invested in the new ZDF infrastructure in eastern Germany.

A tasty stake

Bertelsmann magazine and newspaper subsidiary Gruner & Jahr have bought the late Robert Maxwell's 50% stake in Berliner Verlag, the former communist newspaper group.

— Wilfried Ahrens and Ron Holloway

Concern

continued from page 1-4 —
peared completely from the newsstands. The excuse given is a lack of paper for printing, although conservative organs enjoy ready access to paper factories.

Parallel to this, some CIS states have expressed growing displeasure over the news coverage aired over Russian Television's First Channel. In the past, First Channel could be viewed uniformly across the former Soviet Union, and the Russian parliament would like to keep it this way.

Considered however to be "too Russian" under Polteranin's Ministry for Information and Mass Media, First Channel news broadcasts have been shut down on occasion by CIS relay stations in the neighboring states.

Instead, only the Second Channel, which was originally set up as a local station to augment and supported the ideology propagated on the First Channel, is now being promoted.