

Filmmaking Slackens In Argentina As Prods. Fear Economic Crunch

By DOMINGO DI NUBILA

Buenos Aires, Dec. 14. Argentine film industry will enter 1972 with just a dozen pix in the cans (some of them in final editing), the lowest figure in over a decade. Producers first braked their activity fearing coming reforms in the Cinema Law might reduce the amount of subsidies. This still is a possibility, but apparently less grave than originally expected.

Then came another uncertainty when raw stock imports were halted due to government measures aimed at curbing the balance of payments' deficit. Such imports may be resumed soon, but prices for producers have skyrocketed so much that raw stock would represent 20-odd per cent of negative cost, against less than 10% in the past.

Only six pix shot during 1971 have been slated for 1972 release. They include Victoria's "Mi Amigo Luis" (My Friend Luis), directed by Carlos Rinaldi; Argentina Sono Film's "La Sonrisa de Mama" (Mama's Smile), directed by Enrique Carreras, with singers Libertad Lamarque and Palito Ortega; Wesley's "Mi Hijo Ceferino Namuncura" (My Son Ceferino Namuncura), directed by Jorge Mojaied.

Also Cinetelmex's "Todos los Pecados del Mundo" (All the World's Sins), a comedy directed by Mexican Emilio Gomez Muriel with an Arg.-Mex. cast; Arg.-French coproduction "Sobre Gustos y Colores" (On Tastes and Colors), directed by Juan Batlle Planas; local talent; and "Rosas," a biography of the controversial last century's dictator, produced and directed by Manuel Antin, with Rodolfo Beban in the title role.

Several Pix Shooting

Now being lensed are Contracuerdo's "La Maffia," directed by Leopoldo Torre Nilsson, with Alfredo Alcon, Thelma Biral and Jose Slavin playing the leading figures of Argentina's underworld in the '30s; Rafael Cohen's "Los Divorciados" (The Divorced), a comedy; Catrani-Teruel's "De Quienes son las Mujeres" (To Whom Women Belong), a back-of-the-woods comedy directed by Catrani.

Also Producciones 70's "Piloto de Pruebas" (Test Pilot), a car race actioner directed by Leo Fleider; and Aries' "Argentinisima," directed by Fernando Ayala and Hector Olivera, who are filming it with most key figures of tango, folklore and local pop music.

Apparently no other project will go before the cameras until February (mid-summer here) or March. Slated to begin then are "Los Sietes Locos" (The Seven Mad Men), a cooperative effort between Torre Nilsson, his writer-wife Beatriz Guido and actors Alfredo Alcon and Jose Slavin. It's based on Roberto Arlt's novel about a group of odd conspirators in the '30s.

Another project is "Heroína" (Heroin), to be directed and produced by Raul de la Torre. Upcoming is a comic vehicle for the tv troupe Los Campanelli, to be directed by Enrique Carreras, and another musical starring young warbler Sabu.

Underground Pix

As for the growing Argentine underground cinema, its only chance to reach local screens seems to lie in a coming reform of the Cinema Law that may sidestep the present censorship board dominated by ultra-rightists and pre-conciliar Roman Catholic thinking. This board has just banned, at the request of the Mexican ambassador, Raymundo Gleyzer's opus "Mexico, la Revolucion Congelada" (Mexico, the Frozen Revolution), which won the top award at the Locarno fest this year, and afterwards the City of Mannheim prize.

Underground documentary "Ni Vencedores ni Vencidos?" (Neither Victors Nor Vanquished?), about Argentine political developments during this century, was banned by a former government and producer Daniel Mallo is fighting the case in the courts. It has been bought for several countries in Europe and Latin Amer-

ica, and also has won some awards at specialized festivals.

These pix, and others reportedly in the making, are the work of young filmmakers whose political thinking has grown from different shades of the left wing.

On Wall Street

CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRES
Central Florida Theatres Inc. has been chartered in Lakeland by Robert E. Stitzel of Melbourne and Marvin J. Herzog and Charles A. Alario of Sarasota. Authorized are shares at \$10-par common.

FANFARE CORP.

Joe Solomon's Fanfare Corp., which suffered a slight half-year loss, shot ahead in the second half of fiscal 1971 to close the year with a net profit of \$335,000 (57c on 587,000 shares), up more than 74% from \$192,000 (50c on 385,000 shares) a year ago. Gross jumped about 104% to \$4,900,000 from \$2,400,000. Company has declared a 10% stock dividend on the company's common stock dividend on the company's common stock payable January 20, 1972 to holders of record December 27, 1971.

Solomon revealed that "Evel Knievel," which cost \$625,000 to make (a departure from Fanfare's usual \$500,000 top), grossed \$8,000,000 in the first three months of release, yielding \$3,100,000 in rentals to the company and its participants.

About half the pic's production cost was amortized before the Sept. 30 year-end cutoff, and \$750,000 has been set aside for participants, but not to be paid until all of estimated \$1,200,000 in releasing and other costs have been recouped. MGM has acquired foreign distrib rights at what Solomon calls "a very favorable minimum guarantee."

GULF & WESTERN

Gulf & Western Industries Inc., parent to Paramount Pictures, held its annual stockholders meeting in Detroit (Tues.) in a generally quiet session highlighted by speeches from G&W chairman Charles G. Bluhdorn and president David N. Judelson. Veteran stockholder critic Evelyn Y. Davis was on hand for an occasional needle, but she was handled without trouble.

Judelson made brief mention of Paramount as a principal profit center in G&W's "glamorous" leisure time group, citing its tv film inventory as an important source of future earnings and plugging upcoming theatrical release of "Star Spangled Girl," "Harold and Maude" and "The Godfather."

Noting the G&W achieved record net earnings from operations in the first quarter, Judelson said he expected the trend to continue throughout fiscal 1972.

Bluhdorn revealed that G&W has entered into a joint enterprise with the Richards Group Inc. to build single and multi-family homes and commercial and industrial developments in the U.S. and abroad.

LOEWS

Loews board declared a quarterly dividend of 26c a share, payable Feb. 1 to stockholders of record on Jan. 14.

Chairman Laurence Alan Tisch said last summer that a raise would be forthcoming but he did not say in what amount. The boost is 1c a share, not much but perhaps it is in deference to the Nixon Doctrine.

Eilman Enterprises' "Diabolic Wedding" and "Legend of Horrors" will be double-billed for their world preem Thursday (16) at 15 New Orleans drive-ins. Also set are four indie distribs for the package—Terry Levene, Philadelphia; Eric de Neve, Dallas-Oklahoma City; Mike Fleisher, Boston-New England; Jack Gilbreth, Chicago.

Yank Film Biz Has \$ Deficit In France, Italy

Paris, Dec. 14.

U. S. film industry's expenditures in France and Italy over the last two years reportedly have been greater than remitted funds. Outlays covered such areas as upkeep of offices, investments in local production and purchases of film. Such expenditures, it's believed, will continue until there is a devaluation of the dollar.

The floating dollar has meant a 4% loss in dollar income for French and Italo exporters. But the 10% import surcharge in the U. S. has not been applied to pix. Observers feel there is no problem of increased retaliation or protectionism here. Presumably, it could lead to more deals for French films in the U. S. in francs.

U.S. Pix Imports Resuming In Arg.?

Buenos Aires, Dec. 14.

Importation of American pix may be resumed in April or May next year if interpretation initially given to a new government measure proves correct. A just issued decree states that additional custom duties imposed at the beginning of November with the aim of curbing foreign spending will be lifted by stages as of next February.

From a first reading it seems the cuts may be completed in three months. If so, when the duties are back at former levels it's believed American companies will resume film imports, which have been frozen since late August.

Since summer is nearing here, lack of top American and American-distributed product may not be felt until mid-March, when most people end their seasonal holidays. Presumably independents would supply the rather few top pix needed for Christmas and New Year bookings.

Then, in March, launching of new Argentine pix will start as usual. So if American companies have new product for April (fall here) a serious gap in film programming could be avoided.

By another decree, in government has lifted the ban to increase prices beyond the levels attained on Aug. 24. This, among other things, had halted importation of raw stock, causing reduction in the lensing of native product. Last week both Kodak and Agfa-Gevaert resumed imports but—due to increased custom duties and a dearer dollar—prices soared 38.3% to 15c per foot of negative Eastmancolor and 4c per foot of color positive. When the lifting of additional custom duties takes effect as of February, there will be a reduction in such prices.

Grand Prix Award Of Aussie Film Institute Goes To Peter Weir

Melbourne, Dec. 14.

The Australian Film Institute's Grand Prix award went for the second year to 26-year-old Peter Weir for his "Homesdale," a 52-minute horror fantasy. His pic also won the City Cinema/Village award for direction.

The new Hoyts' prize for the best acting was won by Melbourne actress Monica Maughan for her performance in "A City's Child." In all \$4,100 was awarded in cash prizes, most of them going to non-documentary films, the first time this had happened in 13 years.

Most of the award-winning films were made with financial assistance from the Experimental Film & Television Fund. The Judges commented that obligatory stripping by heroines appeared to have become the new visual cliché.

The awards were presented by Bruce Gyngell, managing director of the Channel 7 network. He said the Australian film industry was so preoccupied with internal problems and self-indulgence it appeared to have forgotten the public.

All the squabbling now going

Amusement Stock Quotations

Week Ended Tues. (14).

N.Y. Stock Exchange

1971		Weekly	Vol.	Weekly	Weekly	Tues.	Net
High	Low	in100s		High	Low	Close	Change
51 1/4	25	Am. Bcast.	813	52 1/2	50 1/2	51 1/4	+1 3/4
25 3/8	10 1/2	Ampex	1635	13 3/4	12	12 3/4	+ 1/2
21 5/8	16 3/4	Am Seat	60	19 3/4	18 1/2	19 1/4	+ 1/2
18 3/4	12 1/2	Avco	382	15 3/4	14 1/2	14 3/4	- 1/4
15 3/8	7 3/4	Berkey Photo	1785	15 3/4	14 3/4	14 3/4	- 3/4
24 3/4	13	Blair (John)	157	14 1/4	13	14	+ 3/8
40 3/4	29	Cap. Cit. Bdc.	454	48	46 3/4	46 3/4	- 1/4
49 3/4	30 1/2	CBS	1071	48	44 3/4	47 1/2	+2 3/8
9 3/4	5 1/4	Chris-Craft	597	6 3/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	-1 1/2
17 3/8	6 1/2	Col Pix	612	9 1/4	7 3/4	8 1/2	- 1/2
84 1/2	49 1/2	Comsat	858	61 3/4	58	59 3/4	- 3/8
39	17 1/4	Cox Bcast.	687	39	36 1/4	37 1/4	+1 3/8
128 3/4	77	Disney	1208	128	122 3/4	122 3/4	- 5/8
64 1/4	52 1/2	Dun Brad.	268	64 1/4	62 1/2	64 1/2	+1 1/2
94 5/8	72	Eastman Kdk	2654	94 5/8	91 1/4	93 3/4	+1 3/8
5 1/4	3	EMI	600	4 3/4	4 1/4	4 3/4	+ 1/2
28 1/4	21 1/2	Gen. Tire	282	26 1/2	25 1/4	26 1/2	+ 1/2
31	19	Gulf & West	421	27 1/4	26 1/4	26 3/4	- 5/8
39 3/8	25 3/4	Kinney Serv.	1190	31 1/2	29 3/4	31 3/8	+1 5/8
34 3/4	18 1/2	Litton Ind.	3396	21 1/2	18 1/4	20 1/4	- 3/4
57 1/2	34	Loews Corp.	483	45	43 1/4	43 1/4	-1 3/4
5 3/4	3 1/4	Mad. Sq. Gar.	832	3 1/2	3 1/4	3 3/4	- 1/8
30	17 1/4	MCA Inc.	231	23 1/4	22 1/2	23 1/4	+1
29 1/2	19 3/4	Meredith	47	24 5/8	24	24	- 1/4
30 3/4	17 3/4	Metromedia	185	27 3/4	26 3/4	26 3/4	- 1/2
26 3/4	15 3/4	MGM	279	17	15 3/4	15 3/4	- 1/2
29 1/2	15 3/4	Nat. G'l Corp.	630	24 1/2	23 3/4	24	+ 1/4
22	13 3/4	Outlet	114	15 1/2	13 3/4	13 3/4	-1 1/2
40 3/4	26	RCA	2302	35 1/2	34	35	- 1/2
11 3/4	3 1/4	Republic	1254	5 1/2	3 3/4	4 1/2	+ 3/8
47 1/4	25 1/2	Rollins Inc.	108	47 1/4	44 1/2	47	+2 1/4
37 3/4	23 1/2	S. Juan R.	21	32 1/2	31 1/2	32 1/2	+ 3/4
33 3/4	19	Storer	193	26 1/2	24 1/2	26 1/2	+ 1 1/4
44 3/4	23 3/4	Taft Bdc.	120	41 1/2	40 3/4	41	+ 3/4
20 1/2	14 3/4	Transam.	1904	18 1/2	17 3/4	18	- 1/2
11	3 1/4	Trans. Inv.	693	5 1/4	4 1/2	4 1/2	- 1/2
15 3/4	7 3/4	20th-Fox	720	10 1/2	9 3/4	9 3/4	- 1/2
21	8	Viacom Int'l	845	16 3/4	14 1/4	15 1/4	+1 5/8
23 3/4	14 1/2	Wometco	219	17 1/4	15 3/4	17 1/4	+2 1/2
54 3/4	36	Zenith	1815	38 3/4	36 1/2	38 3/4	+1 3/8

American Stock Exchange

6 1/2	4	Am Int'l Pix	35	4 1/4	4	4	- 1/2
8	2 3/4	Bartell Media	122	3 3/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	..
21 3/8	8	Capitol Ind.	204	11 1/2	9 3/4	11 1/2	+2 1/4
24 3/8	7 1/2	Carrels Dev.	156	9 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	- 3/4
12 1/2	4 3/4	Cinema 5	65	6 1/4	5 3/4	6 1/4	+ 5/8
17 3/4	7 3/4	Creative Mgt.	98	9 3/4	8 3/4	9 1/2	+1
11 1/2	4 1/2	Filmways	110	7	6 1/2	6 1/2	- 3/8
38 1/2	28 1/2	Gen. Cinema	75	34 1/2	33	33	-1 3/4
8 1/2	3 1/2	MPO Vid.	44	5	3 3/4	4 3/4	+1 1/4
14	4 1/4	Novo Corp.	78	6	5 1/2	5 1/2	- 1/2
38 3/4	32	Pickwick Intl	215	38 3/4	37 3/4	37 3/4	- 5/8
16 3/4	7 1/2	P&A Indus.	14	8 1/4	8	8	- 1/4
23 3/4	18 1/2	Rust Craft	105	23 3/4	22 3/4	23 3/4	+1 3/4
34	17	Sonderling B.	114	21 1/2	20 1/2	21 1/2	- 1/4
18 3/4	10	Technicolor	197	15	13	14 1/2	+ 5/8
112 1/2	56 1/2	Teleprompter	1436	112 1/2	99 1/4	105 1/4	+6 3/8
14	7 1/2	Trans-Lux	89	8 3/4	8 3/4	8 3/4	- 1/4
23 1/2	12 3/4	Univ. Marion	14	13	12 3/4	13	- 1/2
10 3/4	5 3/4	Viewlex	311	6 3/4	6	6 1/2	+ 1/2
14 1/4	4 3/4	Vikoa Inc.	695	9 3/4	8	8 1/4	+1 3/8
9 3/4	5 1/4	Wrather Corp.	390	9 3/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	- 5/8

(The above quotations compiled for VARIETY by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., members of the New York Stock Exchange and all principal stock exchanges.)

Over-The-Counter Securities

	Bid	Ask	Chg.
ABKCO Industries Inc.	6 3/4	7 3/4	- 1/4
Artists Entertainment Complex Inc.*	7 3/4	8 3/4	+ 1/4
Burnup & Sims Inc.	24 1/2	25	+2 5/8
Chuck Barris Prods.	2 1/4	2 1/2	- 1/8
Cinematation Industries	11 3/4	12 1/4	+ 1/2
Cypress Communications Corp.	10 3/4	10 3/4	+1 1/4
Don Reid Productions Inc.	5 1/4	6 1/4	..
Fanfare Corp.	5 1/4	5 1/2	-1 1/2
F&B/Ceco	1	1 1/4	..
Goody (Sam) Inc.	7 3/4	8 1/4	+ 3/8
Grove Press	1 3/4	1 5/8	- 1/8
GSF Prods.	3 3/4	4 1/2	- 1/4
Int'l Leisure	16 3/4	17 1/4	+ 1/4
Lin Broadcasting Corp.	14 1/2	15 1/4	+1 1/2
Lion Country Safari	9 3/4	10 1/4	+ 1/2
Marvin Josephson Associates Inc.	6 1/2	7	+ 1/2
Media Creations	1 1/4	1 5/8	+ 3/8
Mills Music Trust	13	14	+ 1/4
Music Fair Enterprises	6	6 1/2	+ 1/2
Pacific & Southern B'casting	11 1/2	12	+1 1/2
Project Seven	10 3/4	11 1/2	..
Scripps-Howard B'casting	21	21 3/4	+ 3/4
Teletronics International	3 3/4	4 3/4	- 3/8
Television Communications Corp. (TVC)	9 3/4	10 1/4	+ 1/4
U.A. Theatres	9 1/4	9 3/4	- 1/2
Universal Communications Inc.	7 3/4	8 1/2	+ 1/2
Walter Reade Org.	1 3/4	2	- 1/4

(Quotations are approximately as of 3:30 p.m. Mon. (13).)

on between producers, distributors, exhibitors and fanciers, he added, suggested the entire industry was losing its sense of purpose.

Fanfare Corp. finally won approval for Down Under showing of its "Gay Deceivers," after battling with Australia's Commonwealth Film Censorship for more than a year over pic's homo theme. It now goes via Roadshow Distributors with an R rating.

Add 'Lady' To 'Lamb' Tag

What used to be "Lamb" is now retitled "Lady Caroline Lamb." This is the coproduction involving Pulsar-Vides, Tomorrow Entertainment and Anglo-EMI.

Sarah Miles, Jon Finch and Richard Chamberlain appear in the film which is to be distributed in Britain by Anglo-EMI. Negotiations with an American distribution company are now in progress.