

WOLF KOENIG

Cinematic Arts



Inducted: 2005
Years at GCI & VS:
1942 - 1946

Wolf Koenig was born on October 17, 1927 in Dresden, Germany and immigrated to Arthur in 1937. In 1939 the family moved to a farm near Galt. After an active high school career at Galt Collegiate Institute, Wolf left Galt to work with the National Film Board. A Board crew captured his interest when they shot an agricultural film at a neighbour's farm. Through a keen interest in all aspects of film production, Wolf soon established himself with the NFB.

Some of his early successes included filming the Academy Award-winning film *Neighbours* (1952), working on the story board and animation of *The Romance of Transportation in Canada* (1953) and serving as cinematographer for *Corral* (1954). He was one of the principal contributors to the development and expression of both the Unit B style of documentary and the highly influential 'Candid Eye' series, a key movement in the development of direct cinema. Mr. Koenig worked with such well known figures in the film industry as Roman Kroiter.

In the late 1950's and during the 1960's, Wolf Koenig delved into the world of directing and producing. During his distinguished career, he was executive producer, producer or co-producer of some 150 films and was either director or co-director of some 30 more films. He served as executive producer of English animation during some of the Board's finest years – from 1962 to 1967 and again from

1972 to 1975. His immense knowledge in all aspects of the film industry garnered him a reputation as the complete filmmaker.

His credits as a producer range from Academy Award nominated short films (*The Drag*, 1965; *What on Earth!*, 1966; *The House that Jack Built*, 1967) to top important documentaries such as *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance*, named Best Canadian Documentary Film at the 1993 Toronto International Film Festival. In 1984, Mr. Koenig received a Genie Award for Best Theatrical Short (*Ted Baryluk's Grocery*) and was awarded six Canadian Film awards throughout his career.

Mr. Koenig retired after 48 years at the National Film Board in 1995. He now lives in Perth, Ontario. The film industry will always remember Mr. Koenig as an intuitive documentary director capable of making sharp observations and witty juxtapositions between seemingly mundane aspects of modern life.