

A Note from Gordon Pinsent...

The HEYDAY! concept and the idea of bringing it to life on film first came to me in back the late seventies. But the very earliest impression – wrought from actual experience – has been with me much longer than any idea I ever had.

A child of the depression and the product of an age-old pattern of restricted heritage, it became clear early in my youth that the time would not allow me to think and grow beyond my given and limited mode of life. Coming into that understanding left me with the fear that I would forever be living one life expected of me, while seeking an outlet for self-expression that had been growing by leaps and bounds inside me.

As it turned out, the adventure I'd been looking for had been living itself out right next door in GANDER! "Gateway to the world at war" and my imagination – out-of-control by now – saw this as a natural springboard for my leap onto another stage of life meant just for me! It was as if the world had detoured from the war to pick me up and take me with it before it was too late.

So I would join it, grow with it, so as others would not live out my adventures and the world would not go on without me. And for a short while, I spun out that precious time, like a magic top, to the final days leading up to V-Day itself. And sure there wasn't a job of more significant and strategic worth than that of busboy at the Airlines Hotel in Gander!

Uncorking the dusty, bottled powers of my imagination, I become one with the world at large and my short-lived adventure ignited friendships, loves, influences, and creative juices, which have stayed with me to this day. If it were not for this page in my own life, I can surely say that my working creative life since would not have taken the course it has.

But what does this all mean now?

I don't think that youth today are fundamentally different from those in the 40's or at any time. Young people, people of all ages really, imagine life being more interesting or "better" somewhere other than where they are. And does any teenager not imagine him or herself to be a few years older and more sophisticated than their actual years? Today's young people confront the horrendous reality of conflict all over the world; WWII consumed my generation. Terry's reaction to the notion of war is shaped by the world as it was then; young people today endure an even harsher

and more graphic experience. Unlike Terry who conjured up his own images and grabbed what he could from the newspapers and movie newsreels, we now have the horrible truth fed to us via satellite direct to our homes and there is little room for the romantic notions of war that Terry could afford. For today's viewers, our fear of loss globally and on a more intimate scale for our loved ones, is continuously affected by the constant information from the media enveloping us.

I hope that HEYDAY! can perhaps be a poignant reminder of the effect of violence, loss, and the power of the imagination and that precious, fleeting, troubled, and magnificent time in our lives called adolescence.

Gordon Pinsent.