

# Pub crawl for popsters

A PUB CRAWL through Christchurch was one way to discover local talent for a new television pop show from the Garden City. Called *Pop Co*, it begins on all channels on April 19.

A pop programme using material from the hit parade, *Pop Co* is aimed at the teenybopper-type viewer. Producer Peter Munlow says: "We're catering for a smaller, younger audience than *Happen Inn*. Everyone on the show is under 25."

Most of the performers appearing in *Pop Co* come from Christchurch, but in each of the six programmes there will be one artist or group from another centre. Some are professional, others have more or less just happened, some will be completely unknown. They include The Chapla, Bartholomew John, Dyan Bamford (pictured) and Annie Whittle.

Because the programmes use hit parade material and the producer wants them to be topical, it is of necessity that each is produced just three days before it goes on air.

Songs in the first programme include *Imagine*, *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*, *Peace Train* and *Superstar*. There is no miming — all vocals are recorded live.

A seven-piece backing group will make a regular contribution to *Pop Co* along with a group of dancers who, each week, will do a complete routine independent of other performers.

Front man for the programme is Stephen Evans, a 23-year-old New Zealander born in India, the son of missionary parents. He "came in off the street" to audition for *Pop Co's* frontman, never having been connected with pop music in any professional capacity before and never having been on television. But without pop music, he says, he wouldn't get up in the mornings.

His other interests include old movies, conservation, waterskiing and riding bicycles. He's a health food fanatic and now and again tries to learn yoga. He likes the way *Pop Co* is shaping up and hopes for its success.

Apart from *Pop Co* Peter Munlow has produced a number of programmes in Christchurch including *Presenting Dinah Lee*, *Alh de doo ah de doo dah day* and a series of six called *Moving*.

**POP CO:** Northern Television, CHTV-3 and DNTV-2, Wednesday April 19, 6.10 p.m. approx.; Central Television, 6.26 p.m.



# They call it decidophobia

WHEN a small town seems unable to get together to decide on how to eradicate a problem, one man decides to try. Higher powers who have authority to make decisions. But he discovers, in a city full of people making decisions, that power and authority don't necessarily mean decisions will be made. Decision-making is a human dilemma which involves change and the future and though individuals make certain kinds of decisions every day, society at large tends to avoid certain group decisions. The more people involved, the harder it is to reach a decision.

Such is the theme if "Deciding" the *Survey* programme screening on Central Television on April 19. Director of "Deciding" is Tony Williams, the man behind two of last year's *Survey* programmes — "Getting Together" and "The Day we landed on the most perfect planet in the Universe". A television and film director at Pacific Films, Tony Williams says this latest effort was the hardest film he has made.

Although enthusiastic about making semi-dramatised documentaries, he found it difficult in "Deciding" to produce an almost current affairs programme in an abstract way. He didn't want viewers getting it confused with a *Gallery* programme doing a probe on human problems.

The original idea was his. "I wanted to make a programme the opposite to the one on clubs and getting together and I thought of one about strong individuals, the decision-makers. But I discovered that decision-making is such a human dilemma it would be better to make a film on those unable to make decisions and the fact that society can't come to grips with decision-making."

Quoted in the programme is Princeton University philosopher Wally Kaufmann, who says that an old but hitherto unrecognised fear that is nearly universal is "decidophobia" — the dread of making hateful decisions.

The programme, made in Wellington, took two weeks to film and another week to edit. But before this the director and actor spent time actually going round government departments looking, in vain, for someone to make some kind of definite decision. So the film isn't entirely fictitious and those participating in it don't really need to act.

Peter Fyfe, in his first performance, plays the "Everyman" in search of a decision. Graeme Wisken is the cameraman, Ian John is editor and the programme is produced by Michael Scott-Smith.

**SURVEY: DECIDING:** Central Television, Wednesday April 19, 9.14 p.m.; Northern Television, April 26; CHTV-3, DNTV-2 on May 10.

# 'Pukemanu' under way again

AL going well, the return of spring this year will see also the return of Pukemanu. Filming for the second series began at Easter — with the Pukemanu races. New scriptwriters have come up with six new self-contained stories, having within them serialisation threads connecting one with the other.

Basically, Pukemanu and its people are the same as before, though David Gold has departed and two newcomers, one of whom is played by Alan Jervis, join the township. The management of the mill which is the reason for Pukemanu's existence provides the focal point of the series.

In the first series a number of new characters were introduced each week and the story revolved around them. This time the stories

will focus more on the people of Pukemanu — for example, the bush workers, seen only in minor roles before, will play more important parts.

With one series behind them, producers of Pukemanu know their strengths and weaknesses and have been tying up a few loose ends.

The script writers — Hamish Keith, Roger Hall, Fiona Kidman, Keith Aberdein and Ian Mune — met the producers and discussed ideas about plots, characters and the series as a whole and where each episode would fit in the development of a complete and coherent story.

"We looked very critically at the first series," said executive producer Douglas Drury. "We know some episodes were weaker than others. We have tried to strengthen up this series."

The success of the first series of Pukemanu came to the producers as "somewhat of a surprise".

"Obviously we were hoping people would enjoy it," said Douglas Drury, "but it was more of a success than we had hoped for. And that frightens us a little because people will be tending to

look at the first series through rose-coloured spectacles and expecting Pukemanu this time to be so much better. It is difficult to build on success.

"The first series was something of a baptism by fire" for us, and we learnt an awful lot. This time we have been able to plan things more deliberately because we know our capabilities.

"To do a 50-minute drama is a big logistical undertaking — it's expensive and needs a terrific amount of organisation. But we are trying to cope with these problems and are better able to do so because of past experience. Trying to do things like this in New Zealand is still something of a new venture."

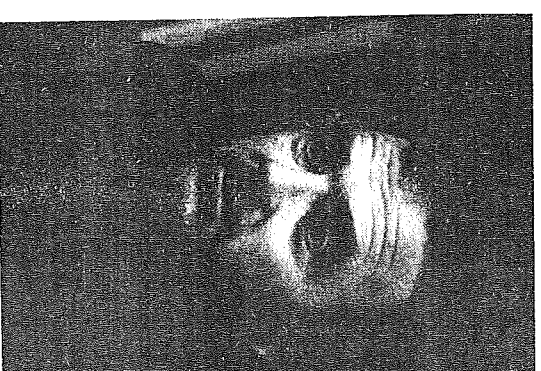
Whether there will be a third series of Pukemanu depends a lot on public response, but there is a limit to how often you can explore a particular area of living, a limit to the number of stories you can develop effectively from a given situation.

"I don't think we have reached that point with Pukemanu yet," said Douglas Drury, "but if we contemplated doing a third series there would have to be several changes."

Producers of Pukemanu are Murray Reece, Tony Isaac and John Charles. Story editor is Michael Noonan.



Fiona Kidman, one of the script writers for "Pukemanu".



Peter Fyfe, who plays the man in search of a decision.