

white wine and quiche.

■ Sept 24, 1982

DUNCE CAP: An ambitious Fort Worth film company named Bumbershoot Productions has purchased the option to the screen rights of *A Confederacy of Dunces*, the outrageous 1981 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel crafted by the late John Kennedy Toole.

The price for exercising the option was almost \$130,000, and Bumbershoot director **John Langdon** says his 2-year-old firm has every intention of producing a movie budgeted at between \$5 million and \$7 million.

"We'll be able to do it for that," he says, "because it will be shot almost entirely in New Orleans where the novel is based. New Orleans is like a set anyway."

The film is now in its preproduction stages. "We're exercising our option with the book's publisher, LSU Press. Then we'll raise pre-production money to get the screenplay written." Langdon won't even venture a guess as to who will be cast in the lead. "We're hoping to get **Roderick Taylor** for the screenplay which is, of course, our first priority."

Taylor is writing a screenplay for *Empire Man*, to be produced by **Frank Yablans**. *A Confederacy of Dunces* was published posthumously after a long struggle by the author's mother to find a publisher. Some film row veterans feel the movie version may face a similar struggle to see the light of day (or the dark of a theater).

Langdon says, "We keep hearing that nothing has been done in the past because it's too difficult to create a screenplay from this work. Our feeling is that, with the people we have in mind, the story already exists. And it's incredible. The writers have to understand the South, however, and that's what we'll insist on. It will be a great screenplay."

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LONG HAUL, SHORT HOP: Ken Fo