

Journey to land of untouched nature

Local Hero good blend of reality and romance

JOEL GUTHRO

If anything, *Local Hero* is a fantasy, a journey to a setting where time stands still and capricious ideas take root.

The film stars Burt Lancaster and Peter Riegert of *Animal House* fame and is produced by David Puttnam, who also produced the Best Picture Academy award winning *Chariots of Fire*. It is a British film, set in Scotland, home of the writer-director Bill Forsyth. Its unique style is a refreshing alternative to the hype typical of American films, and because it's in English it strays from the "European feel". In fact, at first it seems a Canadian film along the lines of *Atlantic City* (Burt Lancaster is deceptive). This unique style, slow and seemingly naive, becomes its asset. Forsyth succeeds in manipulating this rhythm within the whimsical nature of the plot and its setting.

In *Local Hero*, Riegert plays Mac MacIntyre, a young executive working on the top floor of Houston's Knox Oil building, presided over by Felix Happer (Lancaster). Mac is sent to Northern Scotland to purchase an entire fishing village as a location for a refinery (Multinationals vs. the little guy theme). This village, Ferness, turns out to be a place where time stands still (not to mention the people and the breathtaking geography of the Scottish coast). Mac and his twitty assistant wander around the town in their suits, at first totally alienated by their environment. Here Forsyth, also

an Academy award winner for writing *Gregory's Girl*, finds splendid moments on which to elaborate, resulting in humorous moments in the vein of Frank Capra. The humour is spontaneous and not overly structured. Forsyth milks the Scots for all their rural charm.

In one scene Mac tries to break the ice with a few fishermen, who are well aware of the money Mac is able to offer them for their town. He tries the "How's the weather" approach, commenting on a baby in a stroller. "Nice kid," he says, "whose is it?" The locals drop their heads shuffle their feet and say nothing. The humour is subtle and well-timed in the manner so familiar to the British. Eventually, Mac falls in love with Ferness, but he still presses on to buy the village for Knox Oil. He runs into a stumbling block, when Felix Happer flies over to the rescue and the film ends on a positive note.

All of the characters in *Local Hero* have something half-crazy about them. Happer has an abuse therapist, (who is paid to yell and scream at him), Mac's assistant is a twit, the town's entrepreneur runs just about everything and the townspeople are excessively greedy. Forsyth has used these still believable characters as somewhat whimsical people in the ethereal settings of both the Houston skyscraper and the magical Scottish coast.

The visual style, owing to thoughtful lighting and cinematography, accompanied by audio which



Business men in Scottish paradise.

eliminates excessive effects to fully enhance a film which is escapist in nature. The journey to a land of untouched nature opens the romantic door of fantasy. When Mac returns to Houston he has left a

special place behind, and he pins photos of Ferness in his kitchen thus ending his journey. He has been left with pleasant memories, a feeling for the viewers to repeat on the film itself. There is no sex, violence or

crime in *Local Hero*, but a return to a setting of elegant simplicity. Like a good fairy tale *Local Hero* incorporates the reality with romantic fantasy in a unique and stimulating fashion.

...ENTS...

Women's Day celebration

In celebration of International Women's Day, a concert will be held in the Bearpit in Central Square on Tuesday March 8 at noon.

Sponsored by the York Women's Centre, the performance will feature dances, traditional North American folksongs and original compositions.

Running nearly two hours, the concert will give faces and voices to the ideas of women artists.

An American from Paris

Nancy Cole, an American living in Paris, will return to York University to perform in her one-woman show, "Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein" at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Samuel Beckett Theatre at Stong College.

Drawing on what Stein wrote and said, Ms. Cole created the show more than a decade ago but has added to and changed it as she met in her tours people who knew Stein. A theatrical event rather than a reading *Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein* features passages from *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, *The Making of Americans* and many other texts and letters, it reveals Stein's experiences with Picasso, Hemingway, the art world of Paris, as well as ideas about writing and language, and her stylistic experimentations.

The show, widely praised by many critics has been seen by audiences in France, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Japan, Australia, as well as in the United States and Canada. Now totalling more than a thousand performances (it reached 1,000 at the Edinburgh Festival last summer), the show was given at Stong College in 1974 and 1975. The current tour, which is also featuring a new show, *With Love John Lennon*, will end with the Tuesday performance, sponsored by the English Graduate Students' Association and the Graduate Programme in English.

There is no admission charge and everyone is welcome.

ART GALLERY OF YORK UNIVERSITY

ELI BORNSTEIN

SELECTED WORKS 1957-1982

35 Relief structures, organized and circulated by the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon

TO MARCH 25, 1983

Ross Building N 145 Tel. (416) 667-3427
Mondays to Fridays 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

ELLIOTT LEFKO

Suzie Sidewinder sits in the centre of Lenny Kaye's dressing room. Dark hair and eyes, leather-clad, she raves about her own band and the songs she is going to write.

Lenny Kaye listens to Suzie and then abruptly stands exclaiming he's got the words to a song he's written as a tribute to her. Lenny croons a capella, "S...o...o...z...i...e."

Turning his attention to an interviewer, he says he likes talking about himself. He's in his mid-30's, lithe, full of humour, a man who happily plies his trade--writing songs and playing guitar with his band, the Lenny Kaye Connection. He also plays in the bands of Ned Sublette and Jim Carroll.

What gives Kaye his greatest pleasure is being simply, a member of the band. The band that gave him his greatest reputation was the Patti Smith Group, as lead guitarist and sometime co-songwriter. "You put your personality into it. Bend at the knee. I'll take as much as I am given. My philosophy is to have an open

mind. I try not to set limits. See how things are and work with them. It's the bow that bends and the snow falls off."

Possessor of a Masters degree in American History, Kaye gives books as much discussion as he does his noted passion for music. A member of the band cracks that a book he borrowed from Lenny appeared too new to have been read. He was afraid to return it for fear that the spine might be bent some small amount.

The shaggy-haired Kaye laughed. "I don't smash books, I like books."

"Books are why I got involved with poets," he continues. "That's why I got along with Patti. We talked a lot about books."

The current Lenny Kaye Connection played at the recent *Poetry In Motion* party at New York's four-floor Danceteria, along with Carroll, John Giorno and Jayne Cortez and her band. According to Kaye, "This is the band I want to make records with. I don't have illusions of making riches. I really want to work with this band. I feel

it's there. It took us three years and we haven't got there yet."

An avid video game enthusiast and columnist for *Star Log Magazine*, Kaye compared the past for his band to being the first screen in a video game. "We're working through the screens, and we encounter weirder dragons."

On working in the Jim Carroll band, Kaye notes that Carroll's music is blunt rock 'n roll. "I've always thought that Jim had great rock 'n roll bands. You have to do it in that all-out manner. You can't make excuses. With Patti we didn't want to be poets playing rock 'n roll. If we were going to be a rock 'n roll band we wanted a hit single."

Asked directly about the Patti Smith Group, Kaye sighs, "It seems like a world away. It's so easy to look back on good things. I don't want to get stuck in the '70's."

"I've got a happy home life surrounded by stuff that I've accumulated. That gives me a great deal of pleasure."

THEATRE OF CHANGE PRESENTS BY ARTURO FRESOLONE JUDICIUM ULTIMUM

THEATRE OF CHANGE PRESENTS BY ARTURO FRESOLONE JUDICIUM ULTIMUM

VC 443 YONGE ST 947-0901 March 8-20 Tues - Sat 8:30 p.m. Sun. 2:30 p.m.

Do You Want To Lose That UNWANTED WEIGHT?

New Diet, 100 % Natural
NO GIMMICK, NO STARVATION,
NO FATIGUE

Inexpensive, 100% Guaranteed or Your Money Back!

Don't Be Shy!!
Call Now
851-0950
Anytime

DISTRIBUTORS ALSO WANTED