

Czeching out normal people

Karen Tully

"You cannot become a good filmmaker by drinking and partying with other film students—it is a kind of mental incest. The least you can do is to drink and party with normal people," warns Vaclav Taborsky in his recent article in **Cinema Canada**.

Vaclav Taborsky, affectionately known by his students as "Ted", is the film department's newest addition. A documentary filmmaker from Czechoslovakia, where he directed two feature films, five television comedies, 50 educational television shows and 80 short films, Professor Taborsky immigrated to Canada in 1968. He was immediately offered a position with the National Film Board. Six months later, he resigned to organize a film department at Conestoga College in Kitchener. At the time, the only other school offering a full program in film was York.

Of teaching, Professor Taborsky says, "I find the contact with young people rewarding. Filmmaking is physically exhausting. With teaching, I have

the tranquility to write."

He seems to approach teaching with the same enthusiasm with which he plunged into filmmaking. While at Conestoga College, one of his students' films, entitled **Metamorphosis**, went on to win an award at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 1976, Taborsky moved to Ottawa to head the film department at Algonquin College. There he also taught several award-winning student filmmakers.

"He seems to have a very good rapport with students," says David Fine, a student who knows Vaclav from Ottawa. "He cares about his students on a personal level. He gets involved in their life, in terms of film."

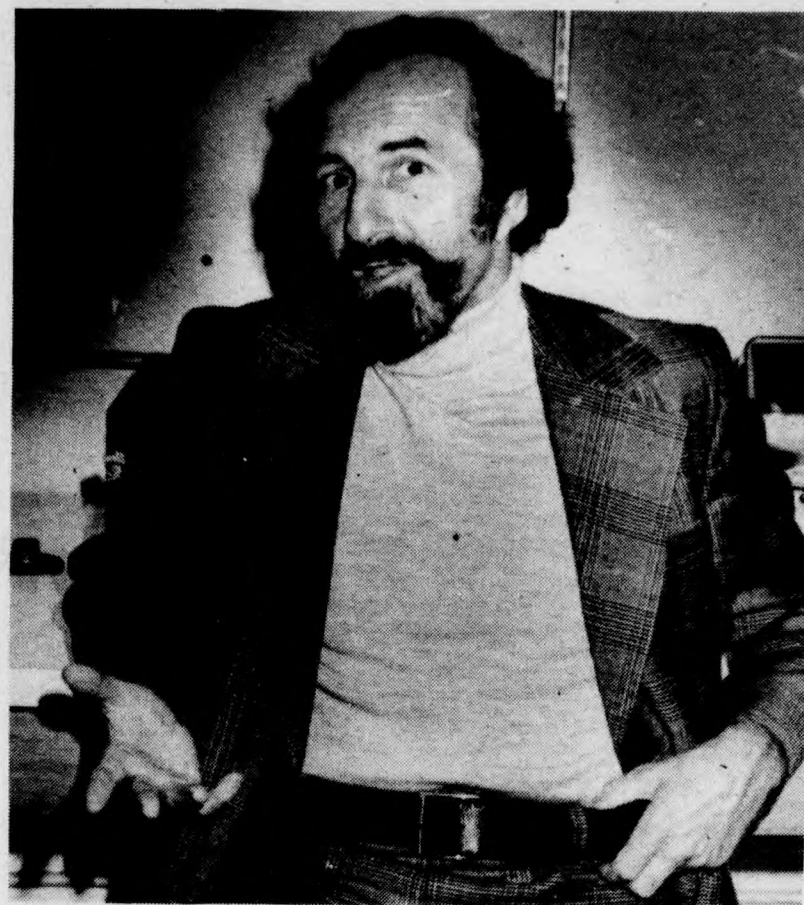
This fall, he moved again--this time, to teach at York. "I felt I was stagnating. Ottawa is beautiful, but I felt retired. I needed to spruce up my life somehow."

Professor Taborsky likes the challenge York offers him. At the colleges, he specialized mainly in writing, directing and editing. Here, he is responsible for all aspects of production.

Unsurprisingly, he was attracted to Toronto as a city. "I love New York," he says, "you can walk down the street and meet so many weird and strange people. Toronto is much the same."

Professor Taborsky admits that you cannot teach creativity, "but, I can be helpful in opening the students' eyes, so that they might appreciate normal people." He is referring to a sort of consciousness-raising...enticing students to be aware of the habits and behaviour of people of varying life-styles, because after all, that is the basis of films, fiction and documentary. "You should know hundreds of characters and hundreds of little stories and store them in your mind for use later on," he advises.

In addition to being a filmmaker, Vaclav Taborsky is a writer. He has recently completed a satirical novel entitled, **Castration of a Flying Bumble Bee**. "I'm getting ready now," he says, "for lots of rejection slips from publishers." A realistic attitude as Professor Taborsky knows that "the only way for you to succeed is through hard work and enthusiasm."



Bryon Johnson

Rock and roll guerrillas

Fester Bangs

A mystique, fed by rumours and counter-rumours, has built up around the very underground band "The Zipless Fuck", based at York University. Formerly at the forefront of the intellectual-post-pun-art-rock movement

ing. This week I managed to track down "The Zipless Fuck's" Grand Titillator for an exclusive interview.

divergence into commercial mainstream music. Neither story proved true. The band was simply on sabbatical to earn enough money to return to university. Fortunately for their rabid fans the band felt that the enthusiastic response to last year's guerrilla concerts warranted a regrouping. I managed to track down "The Zipless Fuck's" Grand Titillator for an exclusive interview.

Excalibur: First question: the name?

Zip: Partly an attempt to be blatantly offensive. Partly a literary allusion to Erica. The whole concept of a zipless fuck is a perfect metaphor for the rock and roll experience. Mainly because it is the only word left in the English language which still consistently annoys people. A little Jerry Rubin there.

Excalibur: That sounds very political, not to mention pretentious.

Zip: (laughs) Right on both counts. We originally formed for political reasons. As a backlash against apathy and the general idiocy of Central Square. I mean this is supposedly an intellectual center (guffaws), yet everyone stands around discussing the latest disco fashions or bitching about how unfair their assignments are. We were also created out of the death throes of the punk movement.

Excalibur: Who would you credit as your influences?

Zip: That's unfair. We all listen to a lot of varied music. I mean, I even own a disco single.

Excalibur: Can you be more specific?

Zip: (shrugs) If you insist. The



Mike Korican

Fuggs, Herman's Hermits, Hank Snow, Artaud, The Supremes, Lou Reed, Jacques Brel, Spike Jones, Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Temple, Lenny Bruce, Bernard Hermann, Peggy Lee, The Flying Lizards, Hoffnugg, Ted Nugent, The Monkees...

Excalibur: Alright, alright.

Zip: We pull from all over and steal quite freely.

Excalibur: A lot of fans have expressed fears of your trading in your scathing social criticism for commerciality, more specifically money.

Zip: I don't think so. What we are basically doing at this point is stretching musically, seeing what we can do, attempting new styles, chasing new horizons in order that we can put our ideas across more effectively.

Excalibur: You have also been accused of sensationalism.

Zip: Look, it sells.

Excalibur: Doesn't that bother you?

Zip: No. One of our songs, "Forced to Hook", deals explicitly with turning to prostitution in order to be able to pay tuition. I'm sure you can relate at least to a certain degree. I'd like to dedicate that song to Bette Stephenson who unfortunately does not seem able to relate. I think that that song in particular can be classified as socially relevant sensationalism.

Excalibur: Socially relevant sensationalism?

Zip: You're the one who brought up pretentiousness.

Excalibur: At some point you are going to have to talk financially about your future.

Zip: We have a great merchandising scheme: we plan to make absolutely no claims to being the new Beatles.

Excalibur: Isn't that a deliberate manipulation of the media?

Zip: Definitely. No apologies made. Today's media is so basely corrupt to begin with that anything we can do can only be an improvement. Besides I happen to believe that we are a good cause, thus the ends justify the means.

Excalibur: Do you honestly...

At this point the other members burst in. There is considerable discussion about the fact that the October 13 concert to be held in Stong College is rapidly approaching. Another emergency rehearsal is scheduled. The rehearsal reveals some exciting songs with a lot of bizarre twists, old ideas, weird themes, and a thick sensuality tempered with a vicious, perverted and aggressive sexuality. I leave stunned and confused, but eager to see the actual performance. I suggest you attend, as this band is bound to soon transcend their cult following.

Off York

Cabaret

Until October 20, Theatre Passe Muraille is presenting **Hot on Ice** at the Horseshoe Tavern. A taste of Newfoundland can be had through the zany comedy of **Codco** and the hand-clapping music of **Figgy Duff**. **Figgy Duff** opens the show with some of the traditional drinking music of the eastern province. They set the mood for **Codco**, and if you can imagine Monty Python with a Newfoundland accent, then the lunacy of this comedy troupe is for you. Overall it is an entertaining evening. And towards the end of the show, don't be surprised if you find yourself asking for "Newfie Screech" instead of your regular brew.

Larry St. Aubin

Film

The West German Werner Herzog is probably the most powerful filmmaker working today. His raw-edged and often surreal images have created truly moving experiences. The Festival Cinema, on Yonge St., is showing a number of his films, continuing this evening with three rarely-shown documentaries, including the much-hailed **The Great Ecstasy of Woodcarver Steiner**. From Oct. 5-11, it's **Aguirre, the Wrath of God**, a stunning film with Klaus Kinski and his face of iron. The monkey scene will knock you out. And the long-awaited **Nosferatu, the Vampyr** opens Oct. 12. Go — and regret nothing!

Stuart Ross

Directed by Bruno Barreto, starring Sonia Braga, Jose Wilker and Mauro Mendonca and based on a novel by Brazil's Jorge Amado **Dona Flor and her Two Husbands** is a well made film worth viewing. The film is erotic, funny and boasts a soundtrack that is a treasure by itself. Taking on the spicy carnival atmosphere of South America we are led into the heart of a casino fanatic, his randy wife, a peculiar third party and a gang of comical extras.

Elliott Lefko



Reading

At Harbourfront last Saturday, Italian poet and novelist (**The Garden of the Finzi-Continis**) Giorgia Bassani read his poetry, followed by translations read by renown poet Irving Layton, and Harbourfront's literary co-ordinator, Greg Gatenby.

In halting, uncomfortable English, Mr. Bassani tried to explain his poetry. "It is a confession, always. A person is a form of his feelings." Speaking of his relationship to his work, he said, "Art is a very dangerous thing. It is necessary to keep a distance, for art is the opposite of life."

And then he read. In Italian, his words hung and glistened, spoken like caresses, laid like brush-strokes on canvas. In the English that followed, I knew what had been said, but how he said it was missing.

Ronald Ramage