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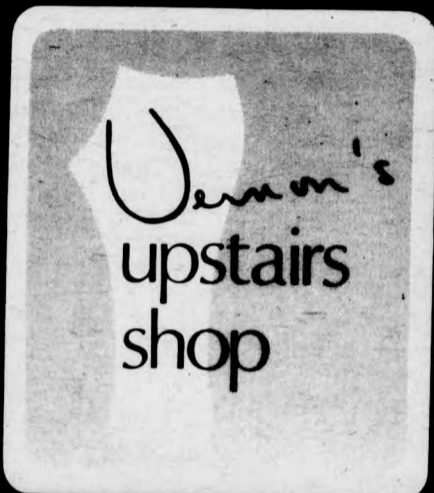
TORU TAKEMITSU (Japan) & ALCIDES LANZA (Argentina)
with special guest artist AKO ITO - celebrated guitarist
from Japan

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 8:30 p.m.

Edward Johnson Building, University of Toronto

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Taxi Driver

A masterful vision of hell

By PAUL STUART

If the critical praise Martin Scorsese's new film, *Taxi Driver*, is attracting has interested you in seeing the film, you can consider yourself well-advised. It is obviously going to become a classic.

Master actor, Robert DeNiro, who won an Oscar for his excellent work in *Godfather II*, gives an astonishing performance in the leading role. The role will probably establish him, along with Brando and Nicholson, as one of the day's leading film actors.

DeNiro plays Travis Bickle; a slow-talking, strange-thinking, marine veteran cast adrift in inner-city New York. Bickle gets a job as a night-time cabdriver, ferrying people through all that is horrible and degrading about New York in the 70s. An insatiable appetite for work takes Travis into the hell of New York's slums.

He pulls in up to \$350 a week, but his total inability to communicate — or be communicated to — leaves him nothing more to do with his money than contemplate watching porno-flicks.

Then one day from his cab he glimpses Betsy (Cybill Sheppard), a top campaign worker for a "new image" presidential candidate. She is so beautiful and stylish and blonde and *clean*, that it is easy to understand why the poor, tormented loser makes her his vision of beauty.

He scrubs up and marches into campaign headquarters to tell her "you're the most beautiful girl I've ever seen in my life". It is one happy moment when she consents to go out with him.

Alas, the poor shit honestly doesn't know any better than to take her to a skin flick. Bye-bye Beauty. Sheppard by the way,



Robert DeNiro is one of today's best actors, says reviewer Paul Stuart.

plays the part with sensitivity and grace.

There is another beauty for Travis however; lost, lost Iris (Jodie Foster), a twelve year-old whore. She is locked into her 'life' by a pimp you love to hate and a big asshole who watches the clock while she handles her clients. Bickle shows that he is made from considerably better stuff than the crap he has to wade through. He doesn't touch Iris and tries to persuade her to get out.

When Betsy walks out on him, Travis simply caves in on himself. Scorsese brings out the inner nightmare incredibly well. Through Travis's eyes, we are made to see in the fizz of a glass of seven-up a dark phantom of him-

self (?) and Betsy (?).

Scorsese is able to realize some superb images as well: a shirtless Travis' in the middle of a fanatical, self-imposed training programme, every muscle in his body bursting, holding his wrist over a flaming gas-jet. And the eerie portrait of the brooding psychotic, aiming a massive revolver at the inane images of a TV soap opera.

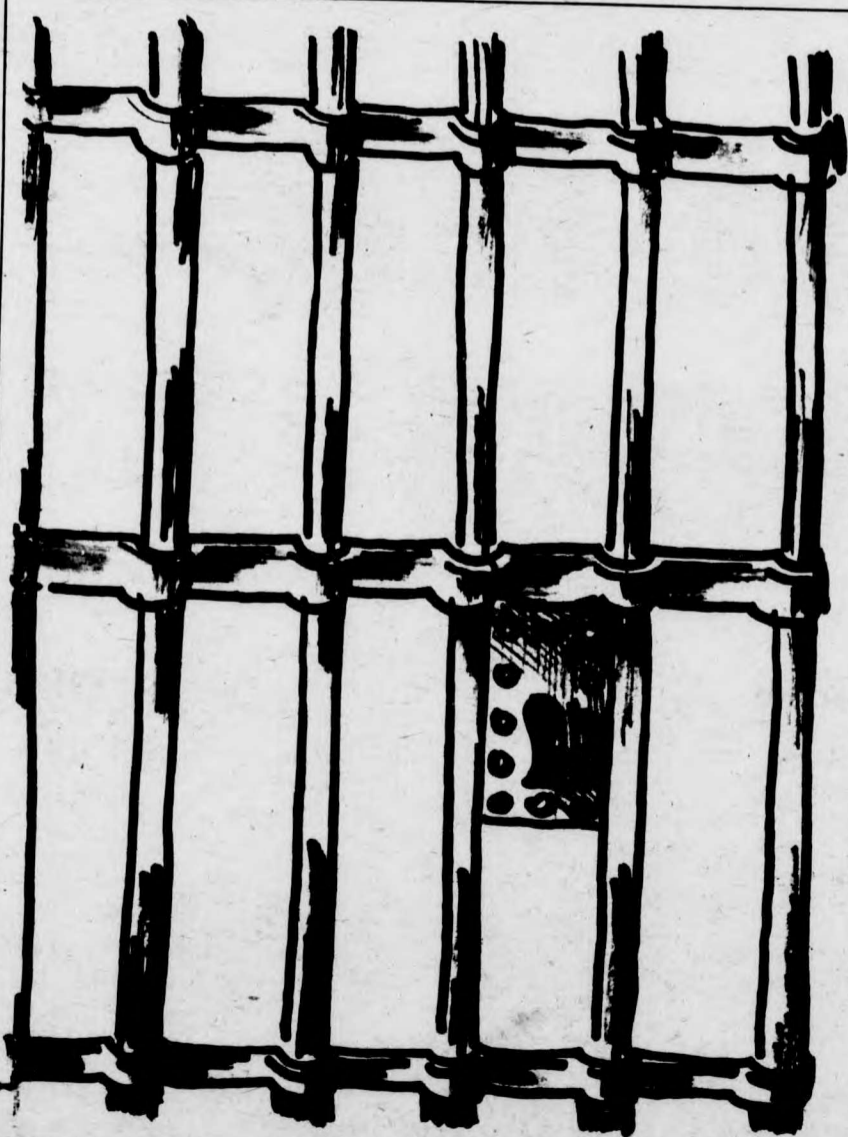
MEAN THOUGHTS

When Bickle gets worried about his "mean thoughts", he asks fellow-cabbie Wizard (Peter "Joe" Boyle) for some advice, but Wizard only tells him that "you become the job, you become the job..." It is plain to see that the grind of becoming a robot behind the headlights, is bringing on all his pain and that Travis is sooner or later going to snap.

The audience spends most of the film squirming, wondering when the old rubber band will finally break and who will be in the way when it does.

Taxi Driver is by no means a film you should go to wince at. There is real humour as well, especially in the scenes between DeNiro and Sheppard.

It is satisfying to think that this film will be available in Toronto for plenty of repeat viewings.



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THE HASSLE
OF YOUR
LIFE

WHEN TRAVELING OUTSIDE CANADA DON'T:

- Carry anything across an international border for a stranger
- Work in a foreign country without permission
- Run out of money
- Deal in illegal currency or black market
- Fail to have a ticket 'home'
- Forget or lose your identification (passport, or other)
- Fail to obtain a visa when required
- Violate local laws and offend customs and sensibilities
- Possess illegal drugs