

And in his quest he finds a world of dust and stars

Melnick says, he always tries to surround himself with talented people. Among the directors he's worked with are Bob Fosse, Sam Peckinpah (who threw a machete at him, "I heard it whizzing by."), Arthur Penn ("intelligent and good fun"), Ken Russell ("who chose to like him") and Orson Welles ("It was egotistical of me to think I could get brilliance out of him.").

Unlike Welles, however, screenwriter Barry Sandler justified Melnick's faith with a tremendous screenplay. Sandler, the only openly gay screenwriter in Hollywood, used his own experiences in shaping the script. "The other people in the production weren't threatened by my sexuality. My involvement was encouraged. I'm gay, they're not. So they trusted me."

In creating the script, Sandler weighed the current morality, and the wave of repression. "The film goes as far as you can without turning off the audience. It wasn't necessary to be explicit."

Sandler hopes that the film will help shatter stereotypes. "The media has created these stereotypes. The film shows that gay men can be doctors and lawyers, they can be masculine."

Actor Michael Ontkean, known for his roles in Slapshot and Willie and Phil, said he had no reservations in taking the part of a man who suddenly realizes he's gay. "It's just a part," he says. "One that's interesting and challenging."

Would he play a gay character again? Ontkean hesitates only for an instant, then cracks, "If people tell me I didn't do a

good job, I'd play a gay character again."

One part that Ontkean would like to play is Terry Fox, in the story of the Canadian hero's life. "I'd love the privilege of doing it. I'm just waiting for producer Robert Cooper to give me a script, before I sign."

Kate Jackson, who Melnick says he originally cast for the Meryl Streep role in Kramer vs. Kramer, says she saw Making Love "as an attempt to do something that hasn't been done."

It was also a chance to work with director Arthur Hiller, who had great success with Love Story—he draws the performance out of you," Jackson says.

Hiller also gave the creative Jackson room to move within the boundaries of the screenplay. "There's a scene in the movie when the husband tells her, he's gay. I had to ask myself how I'd feel. It was an impromptu situation. Going into it all I knew was that she had to hit him."

One of the best things about Making Love is the performance of Harry Hamlin as the gay character. Hamlin effortlessly creates Bart who frequents the gay underworld as a means of avoiding any kind of permanent relationship.

The reaction of the gay public has been positive so far says associate producer Allen Adler. "I'm pleased with what's on the screen, and with the responses from audiences," he says.

An interview session with Charles

Champlin, film Critic for the L.A. Times for 17 years, is the next feature.

Champlin says that critics enjoy 'down', pessimistic films, such as the recent Cutter's Way, or Shoot the Moon. And he says he's "desperately grateful those films get made."

The final interview is over and it's time for, what else, a movie; in fact, a double bill. The films were Spetters, a Dutch drama that focused on the frustrations of Holland's pubertal youth, and Taxi Zum Klo (Taxi To The Loo), a shockingly realistic story involving Germany's gay underworld, a gay public school teacher, and the surprising results when they tangle.

Both the content and explicit images from the screen will make it impossible for either film to be exhibited in Ontario. Spetters is a robust street film which presents a range of problems, the smallest being the dog food they put into Dutch dixie dogs, and the largest being what to do with all these frustrated youths, whose romantic visions are spoiled because they are all either impotent or premature ejaculators (spetters).

Spetters is a depressing, brooding film which ends on a small amount of hope; by Charles Champlin's definition, then, the perfect critical film.

Frank Riploh's Taxi Zum Klo, is the film that leaves nothing out. Riploh is a

former schoolteacher who was fired when he announced he was gay. He went on to construct two slide-show presentations, both heavily autobiographical, which were highly acclaimed. He then made Taxi with the help of the German film agency.

Taxi opens up the formerly cloaked world for inspection, and as in Outrageous and Making Love, does a lot to destroy typecasting. Riploh stars in the film as himself; an extremely likeable and innovative educator who feels that teachers should not hide anything, including who they are, from their students.



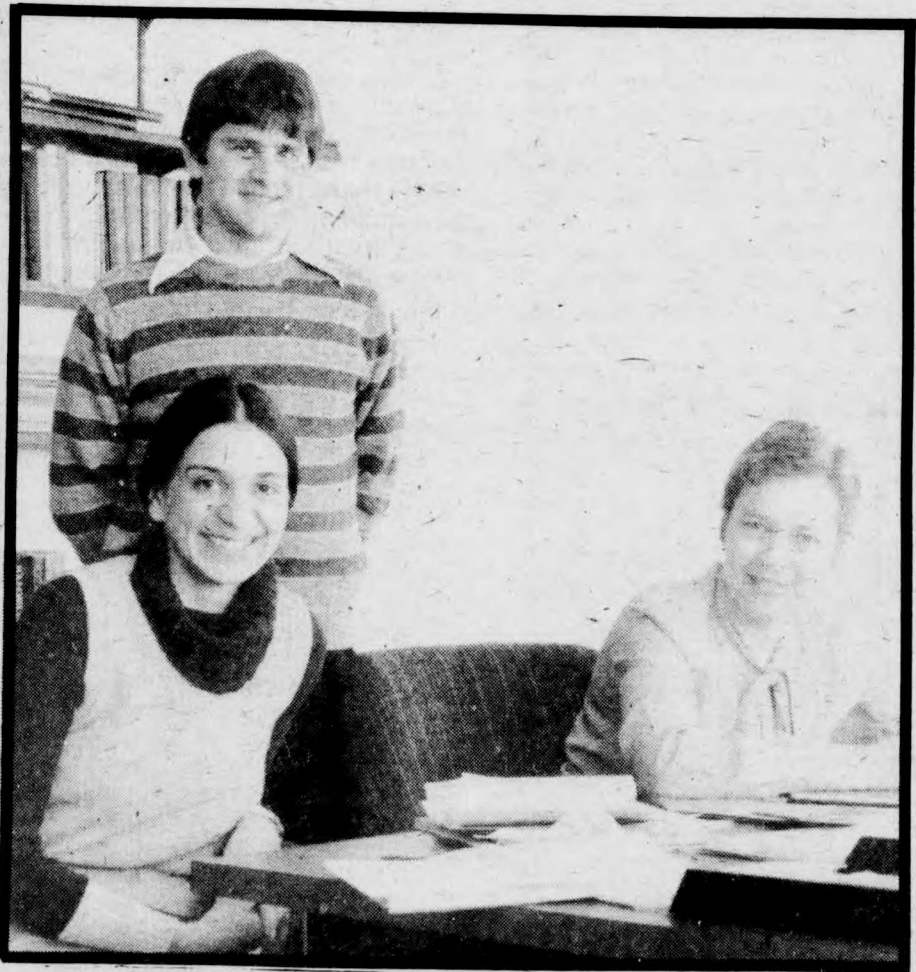
Frank Riploh (insert), and Taxi Zum Klo.

Within the film he juxtaposes a short film to contrast society's image of the homosexual teacher preying on their unsuspecting pupils, with Riploh tutoring a pupil and showing the pedophilic gay teacher is just a myth.

Five days later the total reads, five movies, thirteen interviews, one press conference, and a sightseeing tour of the stars' homes. California may not be a Garden of Eden, but as someone once said, 'it ain't chop liver either'.



York University Student Fund



Mark Pearlman, Chairman of The York Student Fund Projects Committee discusses plans with Patricia Bryden, Director of Development and Gloria Baldwin, Assistant Director for Development.

A number of students and clubs have asked questions concerning the functioning of the York Student Fund. Here are some answers.

Who exactly are the members of this organization?

The members of The York Student Fund consist of each college president and every York student.

What happens to the money raised by The York Student Fund?

Any money raised by The York Student Fund goes towards projects in The York Fund. The presidents of each college jointly decide upon which projects will be funded by money raised through The York Student Fund.

If my group decides to raise money for The York Student Fund, can we have any input to where that money goes?

Absolutely. If, for example, the Jewish Student Federation was to raise a thousand dollars for The York Student Fund, they could put that money towards their choice of projects or scholarship in their name, through The York Fund.

Would The York Student Fund be willing to help our group set up an event to raise money or just to create student awareness?

Most definitely. That's what it's all about. The University has a lot of red tape when it comes to booking rooms, getting functions licenced, catering and a number of other things. Call us, not only will we help you get through all the red tape, but will also help sponsor your event. Just contact Anderson Lookin or Mark Pearlman at 667-2515. Let us help you.

Isn't The York Student Fund letting the Governments off the hook by raising their own money for the University instead of having governments fund it?

No. We want the government and public sector to see that the student body is well aware of the underfunding to this university, and further that their irresponsibility has indeed affected the university's development and our standard of education. The York Student Fund opposes any underfunding or cutbacks by the governments. We want to act on this matter and not just sit back and let the turn of events happen.