

ENTERTAINMENT

A screw-up a minute

Myriad problems plague young film makers

By REX BUCALI

The York Film department is developing a respected position within the Canadian Film community; some internationally respected professionals have been attracted here as instructors. The majority, many of whom are film critics, seek an academic climate which allows them to focus on the craft itself, instead of wasting their energies on the politics of an unstable Canadian film industry. There is a veritable pool of talent here, yet we hear very little about the activities and achievements of the film faculty and students. This Excalibur writer spent some time with a fourth year film crew in order to find out what making the Great Canadian Student Film is like.

The film is *They Do Not Always Remember*, adapted from the

William S. Burroughs short story, and is directed by Andrew Dowler. Two months' of planning, including casting, location search, and designing all the shots in detail have preceded the day of the shooting. The official budget is \$1,000, \$500 of which came from the department, the allotment for a fourth year student. This figure includes film stock, processing and equipment rentals. (Anything more the student has to finance himself.)

On location at 7 a.m., the crew watches a curtain of snow swirl around the actors and the camera, obliterating the background. Thirteen schedules have been coordinated for this day's shooting; now it all goes down the drain. Dowler shrugs and calls: "That's a wrap to the interior."

The "interior" is Kelly's Keg and Jester downtown, the home of pub bouncer Jimmy (Killer) Conroy. The crew begin to analyze the location, which is to be used the following day. This is called a "pre-light". Rob Krieger, the director of photography, confers with Dowler on last-minute details of visual design.

"I've been reading Dashiell Hammett all year, classics such as the Maltese Falcon, and the Continental Op series," says Dowler. "They are in a style I like. I want to see something like that on the screen."

Kelly's is perfect. It's long, with stuccoed walls, gothic doorway chrome and dark furniture. Dowler wants the two cops to sit in the foreground, with the background highlighted in spots. The B & W 16mm Plus X stock will be "pushed" one stop, forcing a high



Jeff Cjain photo

Mark Manchester, Andrew Dowler, Leila Basin, Heather Brow and Rob Krieger meet for the last time on student film project.

contrast. Anything that's lit will gleam. Anything dark will be black.

Krieger is busy explaining this to his "gaffer", the electrician responsible for assembling the correct power and wattage. He is standing on a chair, surveying the scene through a director's eyepiece, in the position of the first shot.

Into the frame walks Killer Conroy, the bouncer and an actor in the film. He throws his script on the table in front of Dowler, mumbles something about not wanting to, or being able to, do the film any more, and leaves.

Suddenly the film is short one

lead actor, and one of two locations.

For the second time today, Dowler has to call a "wrap". Not one frame of footage has been exposed. Fifty thousand dollars' worth of equipment lies useless, as does over \$100 worth of equipment rentals, as do six crewmembers. The actors, all of whom are working people, were difficult enough to secure for the two days planned for the shooting. He, unlike a lot of others, has been able to find professional actors willing to engage themselves in a student production. The credibility of the whole project will now be questioned. Student film makers have little status among professionals.

Dowler thinks that the student film is a legitimate genre. "You get a chance to go to the extremes, to

make mistakes, to steal plots from the pros," he says. "Because you are not out to make money, you can do whatever you like."

It's now late afternoon. The last shot of the first day should have been in the can. *They Do Not Always Remember* hangs suspended, a motionless motion picture. Dowler has just hung up the phone, hoping the actors he has just talked to will be able to work next weekend; hoping he can find a suitable interior; hoping the story he likes can eventually be seen. This is his last year at York.

"There are a lot of movies I'd like to see, and nobody else is making them," Dowler muses. "Eventually I'll be discovered. Some one will realize I've got a great idea for the all-time Tarzan movie."

It's been a very good film year

By AGNES KRUCHIO

The Bethune Film Series ends another good year, and will be back for another round again next September, Wolfgang Lamers, manager and founder of the programme said earlier this week.

Reactions to the programme have been extremely favourable. Reduced rates and good current movies shown close at hand have much to do with the favourable reactions. To date the three-year-old programme has shown some 110 movies, of which 55 were shown this year. Nearly half of these were 1975 releases, and five were nominated for various Academy Awards. Films such as *Shampoo*, 2001, *A Clockwork Orange*, *Last Tango in Paris* and the Woody Allen films were attractions which drew the largest crowds. *Daisy Miller* was the poorest one for which only 40 people showed.

According to Lamers, next year the programme will expand, and will have a matinee during the week. Sunday nights will be reserved for classics, art films, and will include such fare as Truffaut, Bergman and many Canadian films. The more American, commercial films will be shown on Friday or Saturday nights, and the matinees will be mixed.

Lamers also plans a large variety of shorts and cartoons, as well as adding some student films. The programme will continue until the end of April, and after a short break in May it will run through the summer, with dates to be announced.

Coming up are *The Magic Flute* (this weekend), *The Romantic English Woman* and *The Story of Adele H*, all in the early part of April.

The publick eye

Do not forget to go the the student dance concert, tonight, tomorrow night and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Burton... Helan Megehee for many years dancer with Martha Graham, has choreographed a piece for the students along the lines of *Antigone*... incidentally, while in other Fine Arts Departments graduate programmes are being cut, the dance department is quietly going ahead with its own graduate programme, and will get it underway next year... York graduate Sky Gilbert, artistic director of the York Cabaret last year, has founded another non-profit Cabaret Company... it contains seven York students... currently they are showing a tale for lovers, *City Nights*... 519 Church St... tonight and tomorrow at 9 p.m., Saturday at 8:30 and 10 p.m.... free... they say they aim to offer an alternative to a Toronto

avante - garde "dying of overexposure to bitchy intellectualism, perverted melodrama and vicious (so called) social conscioussness"... An exhibit with batiks and paintings of Nym Gautama is still on in the Sam Zacks Gallery in Stong until Sunday... daily 2-7 p.m.the latest issue of *Waves* is here... the literary magazine has fiction reviews, and graphics, but most of all poetry by such York favourites as Irving Layton, Michael Todd, William Davis (?), Daniel Kaminsky... and many more ... Breakthrough, York's Feminist Magazine, is out... so is *Gaslight* ... I'm told by our record reviewer that the best rock station in the area is WGRQ (Q-FM) 96.9 in Buffalo, closely followed by WBUF.... "thanks I.W."...thanks writers, readers, etc. ... and an entertaining summer to you all... A.K.

CARNIVAL TIME, NAPLES, 1677

THE ROVER

by Aphra Behn

A racy, outspoken Comedy of Intrigue, Masquerade & Mistaken Identity, by the first Englishwoman to earn her living by her pen

April 1 - 17th at 8.30/\$3.50
Student Special - 99c - Tues. - Thurs.

FIREHALL THEATRE

70 Berkeley St. - 364-4170

A.B.C. CHARTERS TO EUROPE

Book any Wardair, Sunlight, C.P. Air, American Express, Transair KLM, British Caledonian (Golden Lion) charter anywhere and receive

a special student rate.

Travel in groups of 3 or more and save even more. Reduced prices on eurorail, car & camper rentals too!

Talk
Travel & Tours

3701 CHESSWOOD DR.
(at SHEPPARD)
630-4163

At times it looked like it might cost them their jobs, their reputations, and maybe even their lives.

REDFORD/HOFFMAN "ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN"



ROBERT REDFORD/DUSTIN HOFFMAN "ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN"

Starring JACK WARDEN. Special appearance by MARTIN BALSAM, HAL HOLBROOK and JASON ROBARDS as Ben Bradlee. Screenplay by WILLIAM GOLDMAN • Music by DAVID SHIRE. Based on the book by CARL BERNSTEIN and BOB WOODWARD. Produced by WALTER COBLENTZ • Directed by ALAN J. PAKULA. A Wildwood Enterprises Production • A Robert Redford - Alan J. Pakula Film

Technicolor® From WARNER BROS. A WARNER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

964-2555

plaza 1
BAY CENTRE BLOOR AT YONGE

438-1291
cedarbrae4
LAWRENCE - MARKHAM RD.

recommended as
ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

WARNING: Contains language that may be offensive - Theatres Branch Ontario

275-2451
MISSISSAUGA
square one
HWY. 10 at BURNHAMTHORPE RD.

222-1196
towne & country
YONGE NORTH AT STEELES

STARTS FRIDAY APRIL 9