# Super 8 diary is just super

#### **Michael Korican**

Martha Davis premiered her feature-length personal film In the Alcove. At the Place at the Funnel Experimental Film Theatre last Friday night. A selftaught independent filmmaker with twelve super-8 films to her credit, she is also a respected still-photographer and a core member of the Funnel. A capacity audience viewed her first one-woman screening eagerly, often to warm, appreciative laughter.

'For In the Alcove, At the Place I went back to the alcove (a private place in my room) and the place (the four corners of an intersection in Toronto, consisting of a house, two grocery stores and a coin wash) every couple of weeks for nine months. In my alcove I filmed myself sitting in a chair; at the place I filmed aspects of its everyday life, making discoveries about it and becoming friendly with some of its inhabitants. In both alcove and place, there is change but also repetition. Among other things, the film concerns my growing familiarity with the people at the place, and my discoveries about how to make the film.'

The film is rich. It's a diary film about awareness, a chronological unfolding of discovery. "It's filled with little stories. It's got lots of climaxes and little narratives running throughout. Things repeat, bounce back and reverberate all through the film.'

And although it eschews many conventional elements, its sense of drama is very strong. You find yourself asking, "Will she become friends with these people?"

"Every shot in that film reverberates somewhere. There is no shot that doesn't have a connection with something somewhere else....Chester's flowers, the dog behind the fence, the 'We Sell Ice' sign, 'IN' from 'Coin Wash,' all those

resembling a Mexican vendor's

wares in a bazzar, consisted of

Chinese gongs, Turkish symbols, Japanese meditation

bells, African shakers, and all-

American drums. This collection

acts as a mode of unification in

the arts as MacDonald often

mime artists, and storytellers.

accompanies dancers, poets,

Song of

Paul O'Donnell

Wendy Shiles.

things recur....But of course, eventually, the people become all-important and the architecture just sort of floats out after a while."

As a document of how people relate to one another and how one person relates with herself, Martha Davis' In the Alcove, At the Place very positively renews faith in the dignity of otherwise faceless, banal people. She has cut out stars from cardboard and their shine is refreshingly natural.

## **GOOD TIME BAD TIME**

It was the best of times...it was the worst of times. It was a time for crystal chandeliers, caviar, and flowing champagne. It was a time for outrageous scandals, corruption and rebellion. It was a time when a chorus girl could become the mistress of a millionaire. A time when a sexual obsession triggered the murder of a century, and a man's pride held a city for ransom. It was a time when the beautiful, the notorious and the passionate lived like there was no tomorrow.

It was the beginning of an incredible time...

#### It was "Ragtime."

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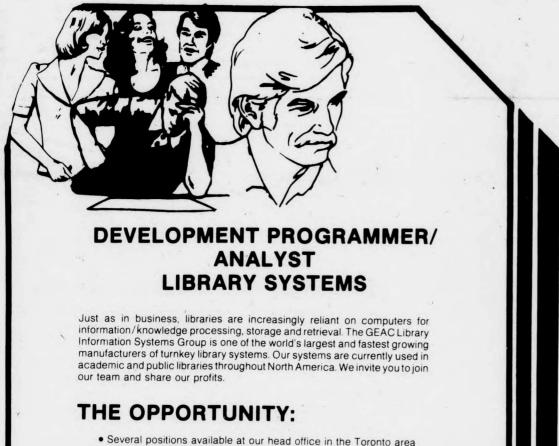
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MCMLXXXI by Paramount Pictures Corporation A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

Originally a jazz man, MacDonald spent the early part A most unusual music performance hit York November of the sixties playing with 12, in the Bethune Art Gallery. different groups in coffee houses Geordie MacDonald a man of in Toronto. Dissatisfied with the incredible talent performed sixties lifestyles of drugs and Sonavista: a percussion solo accompanied by an Eastern alcohol and his inability to be a ' famous jazz musician he left the Yoga dancing by his assistant jazz scene and moved to rural Quebec. In the eclectic Sixties he MacDonald's Percussion learned French and worked on a Sculpture - made up of farm. Finding a need to express instruments from around the himself be began his own form of world - provided the audience percussion, after researching with a revolutionary approach to different cultures, religions and percussion solos. The sculpture.

Sonavista

musics. Thus the idea of the percussion sculpture was born. In the year 1976 MacDonald left the farm and rekindled his old career in the music business (sans jazz). He is currently working on a documentary movie and a record of Sonavista. As one member of the captivated audience said, "It's like being in space."





It's a real party. Feast on bread, soup, shish kabob, spareribs, Tie one on crabclaws, chicken, onion rings, mushrooms, corn on the cob potatoes, fruit and nuts, eat with your fingers and be entertained by magicians, clowns and minstrels.

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