

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 self-taught 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

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.

Song of Sonavista

Paul O'Donnell

A most unusual music performance hit York November 12, in the Bethune Art Gallery. Geordie MacDonald a man of incredible talent performed *Sonavista*: a percussion solo accompanied by an Eastern Yoga dancing by his assistant Wendy Shiles.

MacDonald's Percussion Sculpture — made up of instruments from around the world — provided the audience with a revolutionary approach to percussion solos. The sculpture, resembling a Mexican vendor's wares in a bazaar, 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 accompanies dancers, poets, mime artists, and storytellers.

Originally a jazz man, MacDonald spent the early part of the sixties playing with different groups in coffee houses in Toronto. Dissatisfied with the sixties lifestyles of drugs and alcohol and his inability to be a famous jazz musician he left the jazz scene and moved to rural Quebec. In the eclectic Sixties he learned French and worked on a farm. Finding a need to express himself he began his own form of percussion, after researching different cultures, religions and 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."



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMER/ ANALYST LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Just as in business, libraries are increasingly reliant on computers for information/knowledge processing, storage and retrieval. The GEAC Library Information Systems Group is one of the world's largest and fastest growing manufacturers of turnkey library systems. Our systems are currently used in academic and public libraries throughout North America. We invite you to join our team and share our profits.

THE OPPORTUNITY:

- Several positions available at our head office in the Toronto area
- Unlimited growth situation
- Medium to large scale interactive systems involvement
- Large data-base and inter-machine networking capabilities

THE CANDIDATE:

- Degreed in computer sciences or engineering or several years' programming experience
- Library experience an asset
- Strong interpersonal skill a must.

THE REWARDS:

- Positive career growth
- Lead-in to service, technical, project, R&D or sales career
- Informal and creative environment
- Relaxed management philosophy, fair and reasonable management practises
- Above average salary
- Exceptional company-paid employee benefits
- Lucrative profit sharing plan.

Qualified applicants are invited to direct their detailed resume or phone: Andy Kroen, Ceac Canada Limited, 350 Steelcase Road West, Markham, Ontario L3R 1B3. (416) 495-0525. NO AGENCIES PLEASE.

GEAC
Canada Limited

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."



DINO DE LAURENTIS PRESENTS A MILOS FORMAN FILM
"RAGTIME" Starring JAMES CAGNEY with BRAD DOURIF, MANDY PATINKIN,
MARY STEENBURGEN. Music by RANDY NEWMAN. A SUNLEY PRODUCTION. Executive Producers
MICHAEL HAUSMAN and BERNARD WILLIAMS. Screenplay by MICHAEL WELLMER from the Novel "Ragtime" by
E. L. DOCTOROW. Produced by DINO DE LAURENTIS. Directed by MILOS FORMAN.
Read the Bantam Book. Soundtrack Album on Elektra Records and Tapes.

Subject to classification,
Theatre Branch Ontario

PLAZA 1
BLOOR AT YONGE SUBWAY
964-2555

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

Exclusive Engagement, Starts Friday, Nov. 20th

It's a real party. Feast on
bread, soup,
shish kabob,
spareribs,
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.

LORD STANLEY'S FEAST
26 LOMBARD ST. RESERVATIONS 363-8561

EXCALIBUR
MEETS
THURS AT 3