

ENTERTAINMENT

Filmmaking trio experiencing commercial success

York student film anything but a well-kept secret

Paula Todd

"Film is, among other things, a medium of communication and while it is valid to communicate ideas or concepts that are humorous or frightening, I don't think that realises its potential."

Marshall Golden
Director and co-writer of
The Best Kept Secret

The final images flicker off the screen and the theatre is flooded with light; the audience seems agitated. There are tears streaming down the face of a woman sitting in the corner.

They've just seen a 10-minute film about incest called *The Best Kept Secret*. And their reaction is something the filmmakers are becoming increasingly familiar with.

"I think it's the boldness of the topic," says Golden, who co-wrote the script, directed the film, and composed its musical score. "People realise their own vulnerability."

It's been a hectic summer for Golden, Kathy Smith, the cinematographer, and Alexander Van Ihinger who co-wrote the script and edited the film. They shot the film in Super-8 as the final assign-

ment in their 2nd-year film class last year. "We had planned to enter it in the Super-8 International Film Festival," says Smith. But, acknowledges Van Ihinger. "We were surprised by its commercial success." That is understandable given the enthusiastic response they are receiving.

They won second prize in the Super-8 Festival and *The Best Kept Secret* has caught the attention of educators, counsellors and social service groups. Their win at the prestigious Festival is the first time a York film has placed in the competition. And in another first for 2nd-year York film students, Mobius International, a Canadian film company, will be distributing *The Best Kept Secret*. Mobius has already sold 13 prints with six copies being previewed in Canada and five in the U.S. The Ontario government purchased several copies during the summer and the Federal government is screening it in November.

The Best Kept Secret has also been accepted as an entry in the Canada Student Film Festival to be held in Montreal in mid-November.

Golden and his mother, Judith Golden, a leading Toronto incest therapist who acted as script consultant, will speak on the radio

station Q107 tomorrow, 11-12

They had been warned by their professor and other filmmakers about attempting such a bold topic, but those cautions have been long forgotten. "I'm happy to see that a film doesn't have to be just entertainment to win a prize," says Golden. "Many people told me that the judges at the Super-8 Festival would shy away from the film because it was so daring."

But they were determined to make the film because, "We can use our film to teach and communicate and that is what is important," explains Smith. The film is a "trigger film", that is used to spark discussion about the problem which is estimated to affect one in ten women.

"I've discovered how many of my friends were incest victims. And I am surprised by the number who feel I understand what they went through because I made the film," said Golden. "After a screening, a woman told me the film had given her the courage to confront her husband and mother. She decided to get counselling."

To produce the film, the three formed Rhinestone Productions, and they plan to complete their third year in film study with another socially relevant film. "Rhinestone wants to make films that will do people good," says Van Ihinger. "It would be ideal if people would count on us as a source of information."

Currently, the filmmakers are working with other students on individual projects. Golden is making a film about runaways in downtown Toronto, Van Ihinger is investigating the group living

arrangements that are springing up in Toronto warehouses, and Smith is dealing with robotics.

Despite their new films, they find time to promote *The Best Kept Secret*. Smith is making contacts in Alberta, Golden in the U.S., and Van Ihinger is "checking into the possibilities in Vancouver." But they haven't been overwhelmed by their

success. "This is another step in our film career," says Van Ihinger. "University is like the barrel of a shotgun we are travelling in. Hopefully we will continue in the same direction."

Anyone interested in *The Best Kept Secret* can call Mobius International at 862-0255 for further information.

Teenage Head blasts York eardrums at CYSF concert

Joel Guthro

Teenage Head are travelling sideways, and soon will hit a decline. Their concert last Thursday in the Vanier Dining Hall was anything but stimulating. "I don't see how these guys sell albums" charges one discontented rocker in the washroom. "Yeah," says another, "They want ten bucks, where do they think they are, the Gardens?"

Who knows where they are. Their contract with Attic records is over, and if the demo tapes they just recorded show promise, they may land a contract with an influential label. But I highly doubt it.

The sound was atrocious, everything turned up to blend into one of mused wavelengths. Alright, rock n' roll should be loud, but please give us some separation. Even their stage presence is toned down; Frankie Venom giving us animated albeit stifled movements.

The opening act High Jinx, featuring John Sedgwick of Bethune College was unpretentious and

somewhat refreshing. Sedgwick, a native of Cambellford, Ontario, met up with friends of friends here in Toronto to play bass in this newly formed band. In fact, they had met only once before their debut, which was short, but surprisingly tight. They were fortunate that the sound was well mixed for them. Later, second act, and then up again to incoherency for Teenage Head.

Backstage, the members of Highjinx were keyed up after their set, in contrast to Teenage Head, looking bored and distraught. Perhaps the more than five years of hopping bars has frustrated them and undermined their momentum.

"Working at rock n' roll," ponders Sedgwick, "is like taking your dreams, shooting them full of reality until it's hardly appealing anymore."

Teenage Head hasn't given up their dreams. However, this belief that they merit more recognition than they have received seems to be an inescapable condition.

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