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Something serious

L. Palohelmo

(Special) "Peter Brook is one of the great trailblazing directors of our times. In his theatre, in his films, in his whole approach to the art of living and the experience of transforming the living back into art, he has taken great gambles, great leaps of faith, some of which have left his old audiences (and certainly most of the stuffy critical establishment) far behind. Like Castaneda's jump from the mountainside into the abyss, this is Brook's greatest leap of all."

-Rob Baker, *Soho Weekly News*

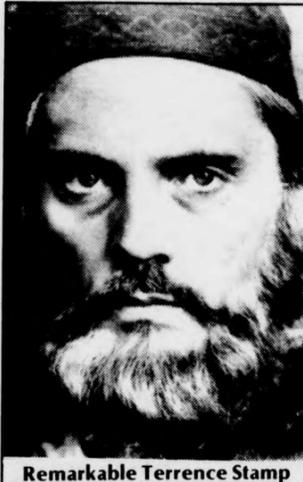
human existence. In a moving scene in the film, he quietly asks his father, "Why was I born?" His questions were stimulated by the venerable traditions of oral storytelling and the miraculous phenomena that surrounded him in his native Armenia, a cultural cross-roads of the near East. His need led him on a journey through Egypt and Asia to seek answers to his burning questions. The journey brought him into encounters with the "remarkable men" of the film's title.

While the book is penetrating and moving, the film, shot largely on location in Afghanistan, is even more so. Brook has taken full advantage of the rugged Afghan terrain, capturing its colour, atmosphere and some of the most remarkable faces (those of Afghan patriarchs and tribesmen) ever seen on film. Even more unforgettable is Dragan Maksimovic, the young Yugoslav actor who portrays Gurdjieff. He'll stop you dead in your tracks!

Contributing to the power of these scenes is the music score which lifts the viewer into a place beyond the ordinary. The sound track, available on Varese Sarabande Records (STV81129), won the Best Music Award at the 1979 Oxford Film Festival.

When asked why he chose this particular book to film, Brook responded: "Every director wants to do something serious at least once in his life... We were aiming at the unknown audience that a film like this can touch, and it is unknown because when we opened in New York we broke every house record in the Cinema 3. We make the film as best we can and hope there'll be a much bigger audience than we think, and in this case there was. One mustn't underrate the public."

Shown at five world festivals, the film is now playing in France and the United States. It comes to Toronto on May 16 at Cineplex (Eaton Centre). Don't miss it!



Remarkable Terrence Stamp

It is a rare event when a film is made of a book on philosophy or psychology, but it's happened with the book **Meetings With Remarkable Men**. Peter Brook, the well-known English director, in collaboration with Mme. Jeanne de Salzmann, has filmed the autobiography of G.I. Gurdjieff, whose psychological teachings have been one of the profound influences of the 20th century. Available now in paperback on most campuses, the book has sold steadily and widely in North America and Europe.

Meetings With Remarkable Men is Gurdjieff's account of his early years. As a boy, he was overwhelmed by the question of

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Steppin' lightly

Fester Bangs

"If I seem to scintillate..."

There are class acts in Toronto, but they are rare and usually priced beyond student means. The solution for those with discerning palates is at hand: **steppin' out...an act** opens Thursday April 3 for a two-night stand in Mac Hall.

"We wanted to explore the talents, the versatility of a small group of singers over an evening. To sing you really have to strip yourself bare and put out, even more than acting, perhaps even more than Shakespeare. It's a different sort of challenge," explains Jacques Lorenzo, one of the instigator/directors.

There is a common thread to the evening and a surprising coherence despite the wide diversity of material. "It was

surprising to put bits of our favourite music together in a more or less random way and to then discover that we were making a very definite statement," remarks Andrew C. Rowsome, the other half of the show. "The hard part was getting the performers. So many incredibly talented people auditioned that the whittling process took forever. York needs more outlets for all the talent buried here."

The actual format of the show is nightclub style with three sets with three basic musical threads occurring over the course of the evening. Audience members are encouraged to arrive at 9 p.m. or anytime afterwards and stay as long as they like. The show is licensed and free. A perfect break from studying and essays.

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