

MORE FROM LES

by Les Wedman

VANCOUVER - When *Star 80* - a movie about murdered Vancouver Playboy model and actress Dorothy Stratten - starts rolling here toward the end of June, the man behind the camera will be world-renowned cinematographer Sven Nykvist.

That's one of the indications that the Ladd Company - headed by Alan Ladd Jr. - is counting on making a blockbuster hit out of this story that will star Mariel (*Personal Best*) Hemingway as Dorothy Stratten and Eric (*Raggedy Man*) Roberts as her promoter husband, who killed himself after shooting his estranged wife.

Star 80 - named after the personalized licence plate used by the actress - will cost more than \$12 million. Production designer on the project, most of which will be shot here, is prize-winning Tony Walton, who created the fantastic atmosphere for Fosse's *All That Jazz*.

Mariel Hemingway would seem a good choice for Dorothy Stratten, a tall blonde in the range of Hemingway's height. That's almost six feet, she having grown while filming *Personal Best*.

Stratten and her husband looked like a Mutt and Jeff team when alongside each other, someone from Hollywood told me. Roberts, who portrays him in the movie, is

five feet nine inches tall, and is 26.

He made his motion picture debut in *King of the Gypsies*, and his acting made even cynical Hollywood types, who tend to snooze through trade screenings, sit up and take notice of the dramatic performance Roberts delivered.

Between *King of the Gypsies* and *The Raggedy Man*, Roberts worked quietly at his craft, mostly in live stage productions. He was the young sailor who came to use the telephone for a Dear John call at Sissy Spacek's place and stayed on for friendship and romance.

Mariel Hemingway is virtually a newcomer to movies too. She had a brief fling in *Lipstick* with her sister, and then showed up in Woody Allen's *Manhattan* for which she was nominated as best supporting actress in the Oscar race. Robert Towne handpicked her for *Personal Best*, which he wrote, produced and directed.

Recently Jamie Lee Curtis played Dorothy Stratten in TV's *The Dorothy Stratten Story*. When Fosse decided to do a theatrical film and zeroed in on Hemingway for his leading lady, Towne screened a half-hour of *Personal Best* for him. That clinched the deal.

In a personal interview later Towne admitted he didn't know much about Fosse's plans but

declared the man is not a dilettante and will not fool around with *Star 80*.

"If I had to guess," according to Towne, "I'd say he probably is aiming at some Dreyserian theme, some American Tragedy kind of thing where a guy who's a hustler tries to climb to the top with the help of a saleable commodity - his wife."

Telephones have been ringing off the wall at Fosse's production office here, an indication that unemployment is high. Nearly all the calls were inquiries for jobs. The answer is every possible vacancy has been filled, which again means Fosse will go to work with the best possible crew and cast he can find here.

Les Wedman •

Joy/Campbell to CBC

TORONTO - Robert Joy and Nicholas Campbell are starring in a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. "For The Record" series production, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, a drama set in a psychiatric institute for the criminally insane, which began shooting in Toronto during May. The project is being directed by Zale Dalen from a script by Martin Lager. Producer is Alan Burke, executive producer Sig Gerber.

A pair of Canadian "Sneakers"?

TORONTO - There could be a pair of *Sneakers* coming soon to a theatre near you, which doesn't please producer John Bassett.

Bassett has spent two years working on a feature about a girls' junior tennis tournament titled *Sneakers*, which was shot last November in Florida, directed by Joe Scanlon and starring Susan Anton, Jessica Walters, and Bassett's daughter Carling Bassett. Then, a few months ago, Twentieth Century-Fox executives in Los Angeles ran a test ad marketing the 1980 Astral Bellevue Pathé feature *Hard Feelings*, produced by Harold Greenberg and directed by Daryl Duke, under the title *Sneakers*.

Bassett said he registered the title *Sneakers* in Washington, D.C., in August, 1981, after originally using a working title *The Tournament*. He did not register the title with the Motion Picture Association of America in Los Angeles, where Fox registered it on February 2, 1982, because he "was not a member of the MPAA."

Bassett ran a full-page ad in the May 19, 1982 issue of *Variety* which depicted Susan Anton and Carling Bassett speaking in cartoon captions which read: "Gosh, Daryl, Harold, Marvin (Davis, Fox chairman), Norman

(Levy, vice-president of entertainment) and Sherry (Lansing, president of production), why'd you go change the name of your movie of *Sneakers*." Said Bassett: "I ran the ad in *Variety* to let people know that the other one (*Hard Feelings*) was improper and unfair. Legal, but improper and unfair." He maintains he has a prior right to the title and does not plan to give it up.

Bassett added the matter of the titles was being discussed by each company's lawyers and would not say how he thought the matter would finally be resolved.

Spokesmen for both Astral Films and Twentieth Century-Fox in Toronto had little to say on the matter, claiming the decision to re-name *Hard Feelings* to *Sneakers* originated in of Los Angeles.

TORONTO - Pan-Canadian Film Distributors Inc. will handle the Lorimar Pictures film library series in Canada, it was announced May 18 in Los Angeles. Some titles included are *Cabaret*, *Being There*, *Cruising*, *The Big Red One*, *Carny* and *Twilight's Last Gleaming*. Already, Pan-Canadian has released *Being There* in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Toronto.

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