

EZTV presents
The U.S. Premiere of



ROMANTIC MANEUVERS
a video feature made in Canada

by **MICHAEL KEUSCH**
also: VIDEO POSTCARD from NOVA SCOTIA
and HOUR 25: with Stan Lee of Marvel Comics

THURS., OCT. 13 - SUN., OCT. 16

8543 Santa Monica Bl., #11
(1½ blks. West of La Cienega)

657-1532
\$4 Donation



Los Angeles Times
Friday, October 14, 1983



WEEKEND GUIDE

Video: Love, Canadian-Style

"Romantic Maneuvers," a feature-length video by Canadian writer-director Michael Keusch, will get its U.S. premiere at EZTV this weekend. A look at the sometimes turbulent evolution from friendship to love, the video screens tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Also on the bill: "Video Postcard From Nova Scotia," a portrait of Canada's long-distance runner and a special video talk show "Hour 25," with Stan Lee, the man behind Marvel Comics.

Compiled by the Calendar staff.





MICHAEL A. KEUSCH
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Los Angeles/California 90038
213/467-9374
U.S.A.

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Calgary/Alberta
T2G 2Z7
403/245-5295
CANADA

Biography: MICHAEL A. KEUSCH was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and raised and educated in West-Germany.

Prior to being a filmmaker he was an artist for seven years with two one-man shows to his credit. His work was also part of an exhibition that toured all major European cities in 1975/76.

Involvement with professional theatre in Germany lead to an active interest in photography, which soon resulted in an increasing curiosity about the art and craft of filmmaking. In September 1978 he enrolled in the two-year film programme at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. He graduated as a film major in 1980 and immediately went on to produce and direct his first documentary film as a freelancer ('Pieces of Anger').

Since completion of that film Michael has continued to work as a freelance filmmaker in the Western Canadian film and video industry.

In 1981 and 1982 he taught courses in film and video production at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, where he also lectured frequently on early film history.

Most recently Michael completed a series of six video programs for the W.R. Hull Home, a treatment centre for emotionally disturbed children. Then from February until July 1983 he completed three major projects: 'If I Can Do It'(N.F.B.), 'Excercise Nightowl' (Canadian Armed Forces) and 'Romantic Maneuvers', a feature length video-movie.

Currently Michael is in Los Angeles on a one-year director fellowship at the American Film Institute.

ROMANTIC MANEUVERS

A VIDEO-MOVIE BY MICHAEL KEUSCH



7:00 & 9:00 THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY
OCTOBER PM 13TH 14TH 15TH 16TH

EZTV

8543 SANTA MONICA BL, # 11 DONATION
WEST HOLLYWOOD 657-1532 \$ FOUR \$

ROMANTIC MANEUVERS is a videotape that would have liked to be a movie. But the movie was only possible, because it is a videotape. ROMANTIC MANEUVERS was produced in Calgary, Canada independently in 1982/83 for a budget of \$ 3.900. At the length of 80 minutes definitely a low-budget feature. Professional crew and actors volunteered their time and talent, and this spirit of commitment carried the project. Although ROMANTIC MANEUVERS was produced on videotape, it is not 'video-art'. The use of the medium is simply a substitute for the real (reel) thing, film. ROMANTIC MANEUVERS exists in the tradition of film, movies, cinema, and relies on film techniques and styles. The story reflects the gradual changes in the relationship of four people in their mid-twenties, trying to 'maneuver' in a meaningful way between friendship and love.

After having worked for the past four years as producer/director of documentary films and videotapes ROMANTIC MANEUVERS is Michael Keusch' first attempt at a feature length drama.

ROMANTIC MANEUVERS

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Premiere Showing

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ROMANTIC MANEUVERS

a video-movie by
MICHAEL KEUSCH



Format: 3/4" color/video

Length: 80 minutes

August 19th 1983

8:00 p.m.

Door: 2,-

Off Centre Centre

118 - 8th Avenue S.W.

403/233-2399

* * * * * The filmmaker will be present at reception * * * * *

ROMANTIC MANEUVERS is a videotape that should have been a movie. But the movie was only possible, because it is a videotape. ROMANTIC MANEUVERS was produced in Calgary in 1982/83 for a total budget of under \$ 4000. At the length of 80 minutes definitely a low-low budget feature. Despite budget limitations ROMANTIC MANEUVERS is a professional looking videotape. Broadcast quality equipment and standards were applied by a crew of professional filmmakers from the Calgary film community. Crew and trained actors volunteered their time and talents, and their spirit of committment mad the almost impossible possible. Although ROMANTIC MANEUVERS was shot on videotape, it is not an art-video. The use of the medium is simply a substitute for the real thing, film. The narrative is linear and the story was shot much the same way a movie is shot, using film techniques and styles. ROMANTIC MANEUVERS exists in the tradition of film, movies and the cinema and features some of audiences' favorite topics: Love, Guns, Sex, Cars, Relationships, Friendships, Fights Joggng and Movies. A mixed bag with many twists.

MICHAEL KEUSCH is a Calgary filmmaker and for the past four years has worked as a producer/director of documentary and educational films and videotapes, including the National Film Board. Although he has experience with and appreciation for the video medium, his loyalties are with the tradition of the cinema. ROMANTIC MANEUVERS is his first feature length drama. In September 1983 he will study at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

Hope to see you all there, at the screening that is,

Michael Keusch
Michael Keusch



New films reflect bright city talent

One of the most exciting things that can happen to a movie reviewer is finding a bright new talent in his own back yard.

That isn't to say Calgary film-maker Michael Keusch is a novice at his art. In the last five years he has compiled an impressive list of credits on educational films and documentaries; *Pieces of Anger*, a film about emotionally disturbed children made at the William Roper Hall Home, placed in the finals at the 1982 American Film Festival in New York.

But this month marks a decisive point in Keusch's career with debut screenings of not one but two notable films — his first dramatic feature and a half-hour documentary about a woman raised in an institution who has won a lifetime battle to be independent.

If You Can Do It... is a moving portrait of Doreen Befus, who was diagnosed at 7 as retarded and spent the next 13½ years at the Provincial Training School (now the Michener Centre) in Red Deer. After decades of working at housekeeping jobs found for her by the institution, she finally managed in 1977 to establish herself in her own home; she now spends her time fighting for the rights of the handicapped as a board member of the Alberta Association for the Mentally Retarded.

Befus isn't bitter. She recalls mostly good memories. But the film, through quiet observation of telling images, makes a powerful statement about the dehumanizing ef-



FRED HAESECKER

facts of being cared for by the state — the endless hallways, now empty, of the old building where Befus grew up; the bleak snow-covered grounds that look like a prison compound; the portraits she now treasures of the family she never knew when she was a child.

Romantic Maneuvers, Keusch's first feature, is something different altogether.



Befus film set to premiere

By **KATHLEEN ENGMAN**
of *The Advocate*

If I Can Do It You Can Do It, a documentary film on former Michener Centre resident Doreen Befus will have its first public showing here Wednesday.

The 25-minute film will be shown free at Michener Centre in Roland Michener Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Miss Befus, 57, entered Michener Centre at age seven on the basis of dubious mental diagnosis and left the centre in 1976 to lead an independent life. Since then she has worked to help the handicapped and the elderly.

The film's purpose is to inform the public about what can be done to help the handicapped, she says.

"I don't want to think myself above everybody else, because I'm not. I don't want to be thought a movie star, because I'm not."

She thinks the film could help handicapped people, but says it's up to them to take its message. "They say pictures speak louder than words, sometimes it takes pictures to bring things out."

Director Michael Keusch says the film is about a triumph over a handicap, and should inspire all people.

However, Mr. Keusch says he didn't set out to make an "issue film about handicapped people and their problems," rather he wanted to make a "personal and warm film about Doreen."

"I want people to see Doreen the way she sees herself — she does not see herself as handicapped," he says.

The film is the culmination of a two-year process of money-raising, research, script writing and the February shooting in such local spots as The Boat drop-in centre, Red Deer College, the provincial building, and local schools and churches.

It was partly financed by: \$4,000 from the International Year of the Disabled Committee; \$9,000 from the National Film Board; \$5,000 from Calgary Social Services; \$1,000 from Alberta Culture.

Mr. Keusch had assistance from a 10-member crew including film-making students from Southern Alberta Institute of Technology who received professional credits for their work, and a professional cinematographer.

* IF I CAN DO IT

A DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT & WITH DOREEN BEFUS

At the of seven Doreen was labeled 'retarded'. Today at age 57 Doreen is writing a book about her life. Through a series of unlucky circumstances Doreen spent 14½ years in an institution. As we watch 'IF I CAN DO IT' it becomes quite obvious that she should not have been there. Consistently the institution ignored Doreen's potentials and instead was bored by stupefying routines. Today Doreen feels no resentment towards the injustices of her past. In her own unorthodox ways she fights for the rights of other handicapped in our society.

Format: 16mm color/film

Length: 24:40 min.

DISTRIBUTION/INFORMATION:

CANADIAN FILMMAKERS DISTRIBUTION WEST
525 West Pender Street, Suite #1
Vancouver/B.C. V6B 1V5
604/684-3014

CANADIAN FILMMAKERS DISTRIBUTION CENTRE
144 Front Street West, Suite #430
Toronto/Ontario M5J 2L7
416/593-1808

GEMMA FILMS LTD. Attn: Michael Keusch
1507 - 23rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary/Alberta T2N 0T8
403/245-5295

Prices:

16mm color/print
3/4" color/video
1/2" color/video

Sale
450,-
200,-
180,-

Rent
45,-
30,-
25,-



Doreen at age seven, 1936.
Photo taken upon admittance to institution.

* IF I CAN DO IT

Befus film won't glamorize plight

By CAROLYN MARTINDALE
of The Advocate

A film about a Red Deer woman's struggle for independence from Michener Centre will not be a promotional film for the mentally retarded, says the producer.

Michael Keusch of Calgary says he was drawn to the story of Doreen Befus for its human drama, not because of any interest in promoting the plight of the mentally retarded.

"I want to make a positive, warm film without having to sell something," says Mr. Keusch.

"I'm not going to glamorize her life. It won't be one of those films

that says, look at those poor people."

He plans to start filming the half-hour documentary this fall.

Miss Befus spent most of her life in Michener Centre, before gaining independence several years ago. Since then she has been speaking for the rights of the mentally retarded, and assisting others to gain independence.

An active member of People First, a group which promotes the rights of the mentally handicapped, Miss Befus makes many speeches to community groups about the handicapped.

The film will follow Miss Befus on one of her speaking tours, says

Mr. Keusch.

Flashback segments will dramatize her early life, as well shots of her at work in her apartment, and taping for the book she hopes to write some day.

To date he has received grants and donations totalling \$15,000 for the documentary he believes will cost more than \$50,000.

The local and provincial committees of International Year of Disabled Persons donated \$6,000, Alberta Culture offered a \$1,500 writing grant, a group of Calgary parents who work with the retarded donated \$3,000, while the National Film Board has committed about \$4,000.

SEPT 18 81 of mentally retarded: producer

Mr. Keusch says he may market the film through the Canadian Film Makers Distribution Centre (CFMDC), a non-profit centre which handled the distribution of his last film, Pieces of Anger.

However, his non-exclusive contract with the CFMDC allows him the option of selling the film to a television network or the National Film Board.

Mr. Keusch is still seeking donations, but says he will make the film even if he has to finance the balance himself.

He graduated last June from the television, stage and radio program at Southern Alberta Insti-

tute of Technology (SAIT). Shortly before graduating he and associate JoAnne James formed James Keusch Productions.

Their first film about emotionally disturbed children in a Calgary institution was highly commended. Ms. James is a silent partner in the Doreen Befus film which has the working title Labels.

Another film on ice climbing Mr. Keusch filmed while at SAIT, received an honorable mention at the Oregon Film Festival recently.

Mr. Keusch, 26, combines his experiences as a painter, actor, and photographer, and draws musical influence from his brother when film making.



DOREEN BEFUS

