

Youthful film buff tells why movies best art form

"Film is his life," Mario Belanger says, looking admiringly at her son, Brian, 18. Brian, a junior at North Farmington High School, looks down at his tennis shoes and shrugs. "Thousands of kids make films," he says. "It's the only way to express themselves. They can't write it down."

Belanger recently was given the Quill award by the Farmington Scepticists for his science fiction script, "Sadrain Three," but he has been expressing himself through film since he was 12 years old.

"Film is the best kind of art. It's a total art," he says. "Especially when you use film to describe things that aren't there." He doesn't know what compelled him to begin filmmaking. "It just came to me," he recalls. "I felt like doing a movie when I was in seventh grade."

He wrote a 15-minute script for the four rolls of film he had bought. His script described earth being destroyed by pollution. The inhabitants of the United States embark on a journey to find another planet. Yet, when they find a planet that can support human life, the inhabitants refuse to allow them to stay.

"MY NEXT SCRIPT deals with the near future, 10 years from now," he says. The film, which will cost him \$200 to make, deals with the tension between the owners of the last farm on earth and their city-dwelling son who wants them to move to his dome-covered, sterilized town. His films illustrate his own concern for ecology.



BRIAN BELANGER

"We're polluting ourselves to death," he says.

His futuristic scripts are the result of his interest in science fiction and his feeling that a lot of time goes into more freedom in depicting society.

"If you write about something in the past, some guy can say, 'No, that wasn't technically right.' If you write about the present, he can say, 'No, it's not believable—they don't do that anymore.'"

Although he is interested in speculating about the future, he doesn't read much science fiction.

"I LIKE Arthur C. Clark and Frank Herbert," he says. "I don't like science fiction that much, except to write it." He sat in an easy chair in the living room of his home, holding the family's non-descript white dog.

A piano takes up one corner of the large room, a stereo is placed in the other. "I like electronics," he says. "I converted our stereo to quad."

"The two magazines I subscribe to are 'Monitor' and 'Cine-maphotographer,'" he adds.

He took guitar lessons but hasn't played in a while. He prefers to pick out rock tunes on the piano.

"I like rock," he says. "You listen to classical, too," his mother adds, quietly.

"I haven't listened to it in a while," he answers.

Film is his main interest. "I want to become a cinematographer," he says. His favorite director is Stanley Kubrick.

In "Barry Lyndon," the actors act differently. They use dialog a little differently," he says. "Kubrick makes his actors pause between lines a little longer. It's not true to life, it's different. It's a style."

His own films don't contain a message, Belanger says. He believes films are entertainment.

He receives support and encouragement from his mother. "I'm there to encourage him, for him to confide in, to guide him," she says.

"I'm his sound man, too," she adds. "but I wouldn't push him if he wanted to quit."

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Off they skipped to grandmother's house bearing baskets of bluebellis and sporting their new Sunday-best Stride Rites.

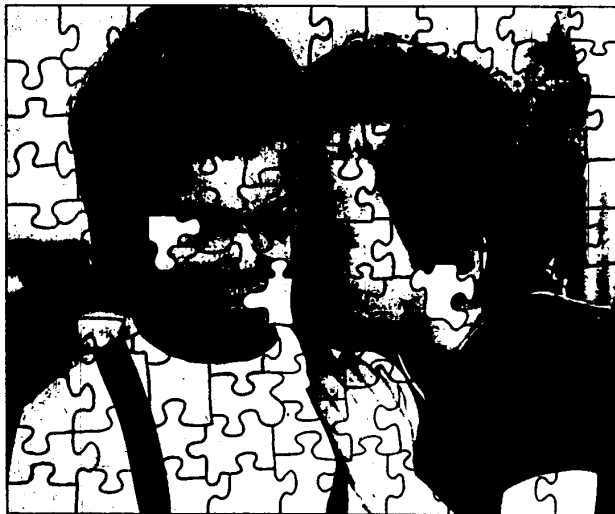
Dressing up can be fun. As fun as picking bluebells for grandma's table for Easter. Especially when the shoes they wear are as comfortable and smart-looking as these new Stride Rites. Girl's classic T-strap in shiny man-made

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