

‘Public Eye’ focuses on shifty ‘40s tabloid photographer



**JOHN
MONAGHAN**

Leon "Bernzy" Bernstein lives to shoot photographs on the mean streets of Manhattan, capturing everything from kissing couples to

freshly executed mobsters. He will re-stage a murder scene when needed, convinced that "people like to see hats on dead guys."

The police are mystified by Bernzy's ability to reach a crime scene before they do. Actually, the shifty shillbug has connections to the mob and the police, though he refuses to take sides.

That is until he meets a beautiful widowed club owner (Barbara Hershey), who enlists him for a favor. Mob figures keep popping up and insisting that business dealings with the late husband would get them to a piece of the club. She wants Bernzy to find out what's behind it.

Incriminating photographs of Mafia leaders and government officials keep Bernzy from getting whacked as he uncovers a scene where stolen gas ration coupons flood the black market. When Bernzy discovers that a mobland massacre will take place, he goes to the lengths to shoot the slaughter, not afterwards, but as it's happening.

Blame writer/director Howard Franklin for muddying "The Public Eye." He wrongly believes that an audience needs a complicated plot, they think their teeth into. All they really want is a character they haven't met a hundred times before.

For his part, Pesci is up to the

task. Bernzy is based on real-life photographer Arthur Fellig, or Weegee, as he was called because he had the sixth sense of a Ouija board when it came to sniffing out photo opportunities.

Pesci almost underplays the role, at least compared to his hyperactive performances in "Goodfellas" and the "Lethal Weapon" movies. He injects the character with an appropriate larger-than-life quality, chomping obscenely large cigars and dressing in the rumpled shirt and overcoat of someone who rarely sleeps before dawn.

"If I'm not on the streets by

See 'PUBLIC EYE,' 8A



Shutterbug: Joe Pesci plays free-lance tabloid photographer Leon "Bernzy" Bernstein who lives to shoot photographs on the streets of Manhattan in "Public Eye."

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ATTRACTIVE white male 37, 5'10", 160 lbs., average good brown hair & eyes is seeking single white female, 20-35, on slender side, without children. #4758

ATTRACTIVE white male 37, 5'10" brown, blue & brown, likes outdoors, flying, long walks, good dancer, white semi female 26-35, friendly & fun. Come by with me? #4833

A 43 YR. old white professional, 6', 180 lbs. enjoys elegant dining, dancing, movies, the opera, and sports. Seeking white lady, 25-35 for possible relationship. #4551

CREATIVE, AFFECTIONATE, white male 40, 5'11", 165 lbs., seeks single, petite female 18-25, shares special moments. Possibilities long term. #4636

CUTE, SINCERE single white male, 44, handsome, clean, slender, well educated female for memorable romantic, uncomplicated, no-strings relationship. #4661

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#4444

enjoys being
Christian, Christian,
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#4550

moral, never mar-
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male, 6'3",
enjoys dining
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uses, hopes
#4217

TEODY BEAR, blonde hair,
#4550
but can be playful, seems attractive.
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#4550

This CEO White male, 38, 6'3",
dumb blond, divorced.
#4550
for a well-dressed, attractive woman
#4550

WELL-ENDED MAN, tall, well-
ended. Love, #4600

VERY ATTRACTIVE, professional,
#4550
looking to meet him, attractive
#4550
fun times & sincere relationship.

WHERE ARE YOU?

I'm 38 yr old white male, 59, 152
#4550
my interests: movies, music,
#4550
32-30, honest & attractive, please
#4574
W. Suburb.

ATTRACTIVE, handsome, single male female, 50, 5'8", 155 lbs. likes English walking, dancing, plays. Wants single woman who has good sense of humor. No relationship. #A 43278

ATTRACTIVE Professional single white female, 23 interested in illness, cars, animals, outdoor activities. Please write if you are serious male 22-30 with similar interests & good sense of humor. #A 4618

ATTRACTIVE REDHEAD, 31, outdoor lover, looking Positive, fun, intelligent, friendly, single white male 48-50 tall, 1 or 1 relationship. Must love jazz, dancing, long walks. #A 43923

ATTRACTIVE, Spiritist, Divine Female, 40, 5'3" firm, seeking friendship with professional 45-55 heartiest, financially set person. No friends considered better. #A 44100

ATTRACTIVE single male, 35, 5'10", 160 lbs., likes to travel, like to go to the beach, like to eat, like to drink, like to dance, like to play sports. #A 43581

DYNAMIC, 27, fit, outgoing, fun loving, good at traveling, good at swimming, good at hiking, good at fishing, good at playing sports. #A 43879

FRIENDLY, Natural 50's, wide smile, seek someone who can keep up with her. #A 44100

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SINGLE white male, great physical condition seeking slim lady, late 30's early 40's for traveling throughout the US & Mexico, around the end of November. ☞ 44318

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