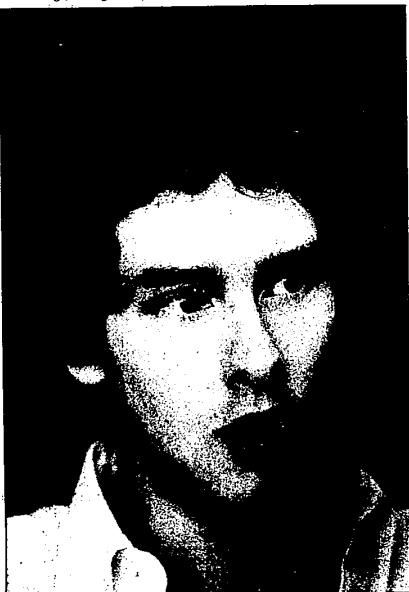


Thursday, May 27, 1982 O&E

Young filmmaker working in home town

By Donald V. Calamia special writer



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Brian Belanger has received a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts to create the film short "Calendar."

movie industry. Today, Belanger, 23, has returned to his home town to begin work on his latest film, "Calendar."

"Calendar" is a fantasy-adventure film set in modern times about

a young man named Randy who is bored with his everyday life. One day a kindly old gentleman appears at his job and gives him a magical calendar as a gift. While looking through it, Randy's imagination is sparked by one of the photographs.

The film deals with Randy's adventures getting to the location in the calendar, and what happens to him on the way.

"I began working on 'Calendar' back in 1980," Belanger said, "and I applied to the Michigan Council for the Arts for a grant. It would have been a meager amount, but I got turned down.

"That was the best thing that could have happened because the second time I applied for funding I got it. Now I can do the film the way it needs to be done."

BELANGER HAS BEEN told that he is the only filmmaker currently receiving funds under the Creative Arts Program of the Michigan Council for the Arts.

"I was really looking at a calendar on a wall when the idea for the film came to me. The story has now had two years to grow and get the kinks worked out of it," he said. "It's gone from three outlines and two synopses to three drafts of the screenplay to the final shooting script."

Shooting of the film will begin June 19 and take about six to eight weeks to complete. Locations chosen include Franklin Village, Kensington Park, Farmington Hills and an unused portion of the Walter P. Reuther Freeway.

"We can get a lot of the film shot on the freeway without having to worry about being run over," Belanger said with a laugh.

ice of Film and Television and its director, Bob Scott.

"ONE OF THE things I'm trying to do with 'Calendar' is to delegate authority to people who I feel are capable of doing their jobs," Belanger said. "I wrote, directed, filmed, scored and edited my last film, 'Suburbanites,' which was quite difficult."

Belanger is negotiating with a local cinematographer and an orchestra to work on the film. He is also seeking additional technicians to assist with the film.

Professional actors are being auditioned for the roles in the movie. Belanger has hired Southfield-based Crossroads Productions, Ltd., a professional theater company, to assist with the casting.

"It's important that everyone connected with the film be good, competent and responsible or the film will fall apart," Belanger said. "I feel I'm a pretty good judge of people and that's why I've chosen a group like Crossroads to assist in the film, and that's why I'm hoping to hire the people with whom I've been negotiating.

"We've all got to work well together to make this film a success."

"Calendar" is being planned as a 12-minute short. However, the young filmmaker believes it will end up running longer. It should be ready for viewing by the end of the summer.

The plan, then, according to Belanger, is to sell the movie to cable television and to enter it into as many film contests as he can.

THE MOVIE is being shot with Ektachrome Color Negative Film, rarely used in 16mm movies. This will enable the film to be profession-

Locations chosen for the film include Franklin Village, Kensington Park, Farmington Hills and an unused portion of the Walter P. Reuther Freeway.

ally blown up to 35mm for submission to the National Endowment for the Arts Short Film Showcase, which shows new films in theaters throughout the country.

Belanger said that if it wasn't for the principal of Thomas Behan Junior High, who several years ago spotted his creative talents, he may not have chosen a career in filmmaking.

"Sister Ann asked me to do a short film of my choice, so I came up with a 12-minute script called 'In Vain,'" he explained.

"I bought the film, which was a major expense for a young kid like me, and as it was a science-fiction movie, I also built the models needed for the show. I also had to use a tape recorder to synchronize the sound to the movie, as sound film was not yet available."

The script for "In Vain" won second place in a state-wide literary awards contest. A second script later took the Golden Quill Award in a contest sponsored by the same organization for best overall entry.

With his interest piqued, Belanger found work after high school with Regan Productions and later with Ed Lamb Productions as a production assistant. He later attended Oakland Community College, from which he will soon earn a degree in audio-visual technology.

HIS SECOND film was started when Belanger was 19, and it took two years to complete. Entitled "Su-

burbanites," the film premiered in March 1980 at the Farmington Players Barn to a full house.

"Suburbanites," a full-length suspense picture, had an 18-minute musical score which Belanger also wrote. Conducting it for the movie was Frank DeBasi who had assembled a 10-piece ensemble from his Oakway Symphony to perform the score.

Belanger then moved to Hollywood where he quickly found a job as a production assistant with Rick Spalla Video Productions.

"That was an exciting experience for me," Belanger said. "We shot footage of people like George Harrison, Olivia Newton-John and Meredith Willson. We even did a promotional film for the new movie 'The Equals'."

"The last thing I did before coming home was to work on the crew of the 1982 Miss California International Beauty contest. It was a live, two-hour telecast. Needless to say, it was a lot of fun!"

Belanger believes that all the experience he has gained over the years will be put to good use in the making of "Calendar."

Film, he said, is a visual art unlike any other art.

"It combines all of the other arts into a truly original and exciting art form. There's nothing like it in the world," said Belanger. "Calendar" is going to be a light-hearted, fun film. I'm always very concerned about the audience when I create a film. I want them to enjoy watching this exciting art form as much as I do creating it."

MEMORIAL DAY BREAK-AWAY WEEKEND

at the **TROY HILTON INN!**

\$55 per couple

- 2 days / 1 night accommodations (Friday, Saturday or Sunday night)
- Beautiful double room
- Breakfast or Sunday brunch (tax & tip included)
- Heated indoor / outdoor pool
- Steaming saunas

For reservations call 583-9000 (and ask about our 48-Hour Break-Away Weekends)

TROY HILTON INN
1455 Stephenson Hwy. • Troy, MI 48084

LIVONIA CHIN'S

FAMILY RESTAURANTS
CHINESE & AMERICAN FOOD

EXCELLENT FOOD SERVED IN A TROPICAL ATMOSPHERE SPECIALIZING IN CHINESE COOKING

- Luncheons • Dinners
- Carry-Outs

421-1627

2305 PLYMOUTH RD., Livonia (BETWEEN WOODLAWN & WASHINGTON)

A NICE PLACE TO DINE

good tastes

Enjoy the many good tastes of the **Mon Jin Lau**

Sizzling Rice Soup • Mongolian Beef • Peanut Chicken • Moo Shu Pork • Hunan Shrimp • Szechwan Beef

Share our good tastes with a friend

MON JIN LAU

Mandarin • Szechwan • Hunan • Cantonese
Exotic Spirits

E. Maple Rd. at Stephenson Hwy. Troy
689-2332

LYNX

This exciting group explodes into Livonia with a complete show of today's music. Join LYNX thru May 31 at...

HAPPY HOUR NIGHTLY
4:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Mon. - Fri.

French Colony
Restaurant-Bar

Holiday Inn Livonia WEST
Corner of 6 Mi. & I-275

SEAFOOD Spectacular

EVERY **FRIDAY NIGHT**
5-11 P.M.

COMPLETE SEAFOOD DINNERS \$2.95 and up

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Schuler's

So many different ways to make you welcome!

WEST BLOOMFIELD
ROCHESTER 2601 Rochester Rd. 852-8330
5066 West Maple 851-8880

UNCLE JOHN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT AND PANCAKE HOUSE

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

REDFORD LIVONIA BIRMINGHAM
10021 Telegraph 2780 Grand Blvd (at 8 Mile) 476-2227
238-0340 476-2227 388 Woodward (at 14th) 844-2377

Dine at 28 of Detroit's **Finest Restaurants for Half Price**

EPICURE

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Aster's	Jacoby's	Merrick's	Dissonance
McIntosh's	Merwin's	The Blind Fish	The Auberge de la
Warner's	Scandinavia	Royal Eagle	Sancti (Midwest)
The Bull Market	Tom Ryan's	The Old Place	Double Eagle
The Little Cafe	Sam's	The Corner	Golden Garden
The Sunnyside	Home Cafe	The Golden Lion	Lafayette
The Money Tree	Little Harry's	Peterson Terrace	Wm. Schuler's
		Francesca's	W. Woodfield
		Wm. Schuler's	LaGranda (Midwest)
		(Rochester)	

964-2600 Epicurean Dining Society, Inc.
321 W. Lafayette, Suite 948, Detroit, Mich. 48226

Which of the following **ISNT** included in the **Michigan Inn's \$39.00** per night **Summer Weekend Special?**

- Luxurious guest room (any Friday through Sunday)
- Beautiful indoor/outdoor pool
- Steaming saunas
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Exercise equipment
- Video game room
- Kid's room (\$15.00 per night)
- Bo Derek and Tom Selleck

For reservations (and the correct answer) Call 559-6500 / Toll Free 1-800-482-3440

MICHIGAN INN
16400 J.L. Hudson Drive • Southfield, MI 48075

Kingsley Inn

Voted Best Hotel Dining Room by Monthly Detroit Magazine

Our facilities are unsurpassed!

BANQUETS

Gourmet dining for your conference of ten...or your wedding reception for 500! Bridal Showers, Bowling Banquets, Bar Mitzvahs and every other important occasion.

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD BLOOMFIELD HILLS
644-1400