

Globe Review

CANADIAN FILM

How the movie with a very blunt name managed to get a very big boost

Martin Gero worried his film's f-word title might hamper distribution. Instead he's got a prime slot at TIFF

BY DAVID WADSWORTH

There is no question that opening credits, *Young People Fucking*, ends up there with the 11th most hits in the history of all time. But its Vancouver-based director, Martin Gero, insists that his feature film directorial debut — which ticks off the case of those programs at the world's largest international film festival — is actually a thoughtful, lowest-common-denominator road picture about the messy underbelly of sex.

A generation "that more than any other, has tried to separate sex and love as two very distinct, complicated things," he adds.

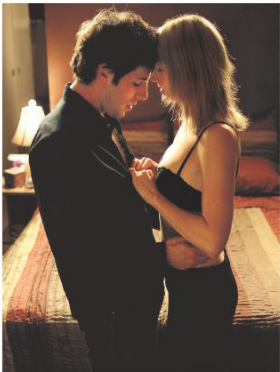
Gero co-wrote the film and stars with his actor buddy, Aaron Abrams (also one of the stars in the comedy). The two met a few years ago while on the set of the hit TV show *Scrubs* (in which Abrams is an actor and Gero is currently an executive producer).

"We both were looking to do something different," Gero explains. "We both were in love at the time, and we would compare these stories (about our personal lives)," said the director on the phone from Vancouver.

"We wanted to do a frank, realistic comedy about sex and relationships. There is kind of a very romantic, comical way to deal with a film, but for us, the really interesting stuff happens after the idea." Abrams and Gero wrote the script over six months, trading remote back and forth by e-mail. "The idea just kind of happened because both James and I are terrible at coming up with titles — and that's it."

"The good thing about the title is that it immediately sets through a lot of crap. The real thing about it is that people may think the film will be more about sex and crass than it actually is. I have to say it was kind of strange for two straight guys to sit down and write a movie about sex. Right off," adds a cheerful Gero, who has shed his single status and now lives with his girlfriend, Producer by Toronto-based Coppeport Entertainment, Young People Fucking portrays four couples and one threesome.

WIDE WORLD INSIDE



Saqar Barwani and Josh Cooke star in a film about relationships in the *Yelloweyes* underdog set.

DIFFERENCE AWARDS



Matt Damon to return to Toronto.

Damon to host celebrity charity gala

BY MICHAEL FORD

Highlighted star Matt Damon will be in Toronto on Sept. 4 for a star-studded annual celebrity fundraiser. Richard Gere, model Peter Dinklage, Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, and Justice Minister Peter Lawrence will be announced today.

The ceremony will be among those sponsored this year by One X One, the non-profit foundation that supports children in Canada and abroad.

The honorees, called the Difference Awards, will be hand-picked out of the Peter Simon Centre for the Performing Arts, at its annual Academy Award Musical stars (Gere and White) been one booked to attend and perform, as an historical singing sensation. The Young, the African Children's Choir and a number of other high profile celebrities.

Gere's Award winner last year, the winner of the band the Pigeons, will also be honoured for his commitment to providing aid in his native country through the *Save the World* movement.

Established less than three years ago by David Canada, the charity has raised more than \$2 million for various projects and funded partnerships with several major corporations and foundations.

Within a few months, Adler said in an interview yesterday, One X One intends to launch a pilot program to ensure that first entrance children will have a full financial every day.

In a *Stage in Toronto*, the charity is helping 2,000 children attend school, and has established a business mentoring co-op. "I was trying to take people out of poverty," says Adler, "you have to give them tools, not handouts."

WIDE WORLD INSIDE

CULTURE | ACADEMIC DEBATE

Give me sex-saturated capitalism any day

RUSSELL SMITH
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Every few months, some pundit purports to make an academic discourse that we adore and explore it with the air of someone elaborating a complex philosophy. This is a media genre as ancient as the "where is technology taking us?" article.

So, our venerable attack by the evolutionists of advertising and by the contrivance of the event. (How many articles have you read in the past five years on "the music streaming of porn"? I must have written the myself.) We are both terrified and

ARTS INSTITUTIONS | FUNDING

Province gives additional \$12-million to Art Gallery of Alberta expansion



U.S. architect Daniel Libeskind's winning design for the Art Gallery of Alberta's expansion, set to open in 2009. (Globe and Mail)

BY JAMES ADAMS

The Art Gallery of Alberta's highly anticipated capital expansion got a much needed infusion of cash yesterday when Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach announced his government will give the project an additional \$12 million.

Stelmach said \$12 million of the \$100-million will be delivered in this fiscal year and the balance in 2008-09. Yesterday's commitment by the Conservative government raises the support of the AGA expansion to \$20 million, the purchase being agreed in 2005 to provide the gallery for funding rights to the facility, previously called the Edmonton Art Gallery.

"Culture is the soul of our society and connects individuals and defines who we are," Stelmach said in a speech.

MORE INSIDE



GOING OUT
Just for Laughs, the Toronto edition The Montreal festival spills over into Toronto this week, plus other entertainment events to help plan your week.