

Porn star talks to students

Ron Jeremy discusses sex, feminism, and a lifetime working in porn

by Mark B. Thomas,
Interrobang

LONDON, Ont., (CUP) — He may have been 30 minutes late, but the 500 students who came to hear him speak couldn't have cared less—the Hedgehog was at Fanshawe College.

For nearly two hours Ron Jeremy, star of over 1,500 adult films and sexual partner to some 4,000-5,000 women, spoke on topics ranging from societal expectations of female sexuality to the age of his oldest partner—for the record he was in his forties and she was 87.

Any doubts about whether he would attempt to tread lightly around the language often associated with his movies were put to rest early.

Jeremy, looking his slobby, couch potato best in a t-shirt and track pants, led listeners through a graphic retelling of a movie-shoot in which the entire cast and crew were violently sea-sick. Everyone, except Jeremy, was vomiting (including his on-screen partner), but due to time constraints the director had them complete the scene.

After recounting some of his favourite moments and jokes, Jeremy opened the floor up to questions from the audience and he proved to be both candid and humorous.

If the question was suggestive or downright dirty, Jeremy was happy to respond in kind. On more serious topics such as questions regarding the public perception of adult film as degrading to women, he responded seriously, but always with a smile and a joke never too far behind.

Jeremy said adult film and pornography in general, is an unfair target of the feminist movement.

"The feminists say the women in adult films are [turned into] sex objects. Well excuse me but there are men's penises in their too," he said, while adding that female porn stars are paid much more than their male counterparts. "In fact, most of the people I work for in the business are women."

Jeremy added that feminists don't have to look far to find more worthy targets of their criticism.

"The feminists should be more upset by commercials, or G or PG rated movies that try to sneak sex in there," he said. "[Adult films] are the only ones who advertise 18 and over."

We're the only ones being honest."

Jeremy went on to remark on the standard, or double standard, between male and female sexuality.

"The double-standard is there because of upbringing. When I was a school teacher I'd meet the parents and you'd know exactly why [the kids] are the way they are," he said. "Parents think it's great if their son has girls chasing him. They think, 'oh that's great, look at all the girls chasing little Johnny.' But if it's a daughter being chased, it's 'don't you dare. Don't you dare.'"

For a man in his line of work Jeremy has old-fashioned values when it comes to the notion of true love, something he says he saw every day at home between his parents who were married for 35 years.

"[True love] is very powerful and very rare. I asked my dad, 'how do you do it? You know, 35 years being monogamous.' He said you have to think of different things to do," Jeremy said, before laughing that over two decades in adult film have left him with few options that qualify as different.

Both of Jeremy's parents were in the military; in fact his mother was a lieutenant in the Office of Strategic Service, a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Yeah, my mother was a spy," Jeremy said.

Born in 1953 in the Queens section of New York City, Jeremy went to Queen's College where he earned a B.A. in theatre, B.A. in education and a Masters in special education.

His plan was to become an actor, but after limited success in off-Broadway productions he decided to put his degrees to use by becoming a teacher. That is until his girlfriend sent his picture in to, now defunct women's magazine, *Playgirl*.

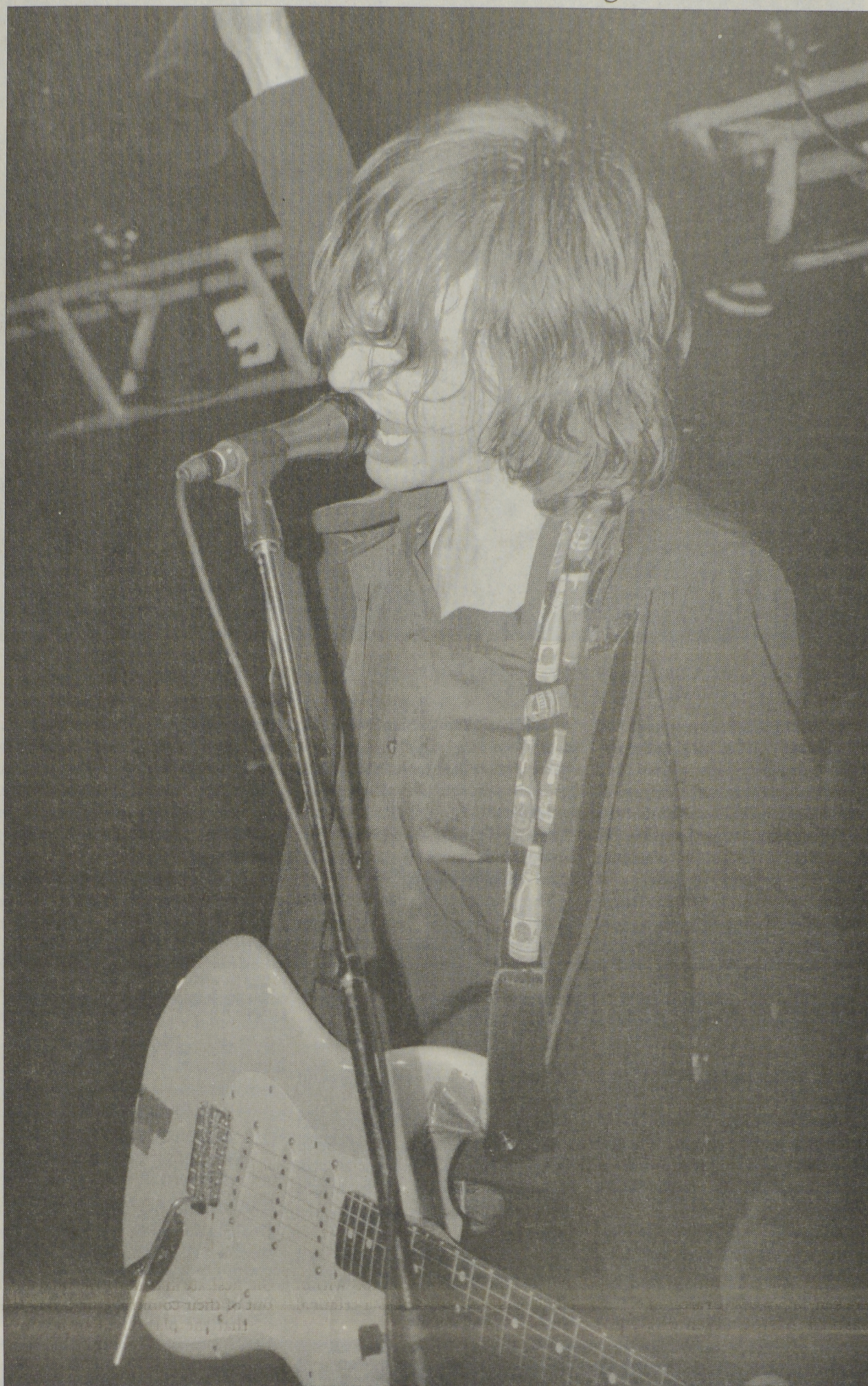
The appearance in *Playgirl* led to more modeling in adult magazines that led to adult film, where he estimates he has starred in over 1,500 films.

But curiously Jeremy said the journey is slowly bringing him back to what he always wanted to be, a legitimate film actor. Jeremy has appeared in over 65 Hollywood features and he said that as Hollywood executives continue to relax about working with porn stars his non-adult film acting work will continue to increase.

For now, Jeremy has trimmed his workload to about one adult film shoot a month, but he said he has no intentions of quitting.

"I am not gonna retire - till the day it quits," he said.

Joel Plaskett tours new album through Fredericton



Sean Patrick Sullivan/The Brunswickan

Ex-Thrush Hermit frontman, Joel Plaskett, rocked the roof off The Chestnut last Saturday.

Come on Joel, teach me something

The Joel Plaskett Emergency delighted Chestnut crowd with a heap of new tunes

by Patrick Reinartz

While his hometown of Halifax was still being dug out after one of the most severe snowstorms in recent memory, Joel Plaskett and his band The Emergency opened a killer Chestnut set with 'Waiting to be Discovered,' a song he said was about snow. The song, from his album *Down at the Khyber*, set the tone for a show that would meet—and in many cases exceed—the audience's expectations at every turn.

Plaskett is a showman in the most traditional sense. It's quite entrancing

to watch him physically emote every note and lyric, pulling all the rockstar stunts you wish your band could do without looking stupid. And yet as familiar or posed as some of his "moves" may seem, he's so genuine about it that you can't help but shut off the inner critic and join in on the fun.

The performance itself was also spot on, proving that beneath all the style there is also some serious substance. When Plaskett wasn't showing off his buttery smooth rock riffs, he was letting his ultra-slick rhythm section (Tim Brennan on Bass and Dave Marsh on drums) show the way. It was quite a beautiful sound when Plaskett would just stop playing and let the two do their thing, only to explode back in with yet another great guitar moment.

One also shouldn't overlook Plaskett's great sense of humour and generally sharp stage presence. To the audience's amusement, the band would frequently drop a few lines of lyrics or a riff from other familiar songs into their original material. It was a bizarre sort of trip through Plaskett's listening habits, which included bits from Black Sabbath, The Grateful Dead, Poison, The Rolling Stones, and even a short jam around R Kelly's 'Ignition' to counter accusations that he was forever stuck in the 70s.

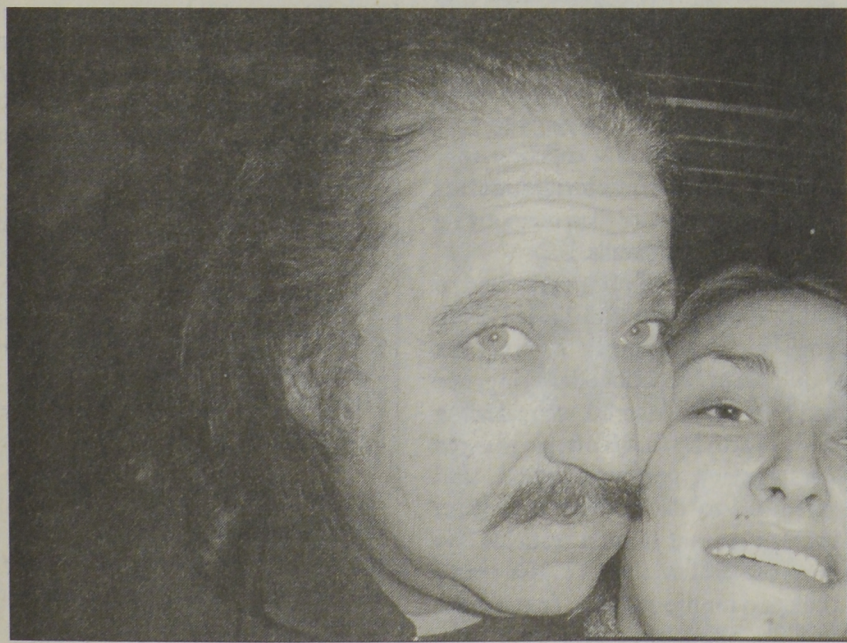
Ultimately, the only possible complaint about the show would be the unfortunate lack of material from his first solo album, *In Need of Medial Attention*, which provided many highlights the last time the band swung through The Chestnut. It's to be expected that Plaskett would want to highlight material from his new album, *Truthfully Truthfully*, but some earlier songs were sorely missed.

That said, Emergency fans were not disappointed. The trio left all the best-known songs for the end, inciting one singalong after another. Plaskett's main set closed with *True Patriot Love* and *Maybe We Should Just Go Home*, while the night proper ended with Thrush Hermit's classic *From the Back of the Film*, a song so good it's destined to remain an East Coast classic.

Halifax residents may still be digging themselves out when Easter comes around, but luckily one of the city's brightest lights was able to get out long enough to put on one hell of an entertaining show here in Fredericton.

THE BRUNSWICKAN

is always in need of new talent. Interested in writing or photography? Come to a staff meeting, held every Wednesday at 12:30 in SUB Room 35. No experience necessary.



Heather Keene/Interrobang

Adult film actor Ron Jeremy poses with a fan after addressing five hundred students at London, Ontario's Fanshawe College.

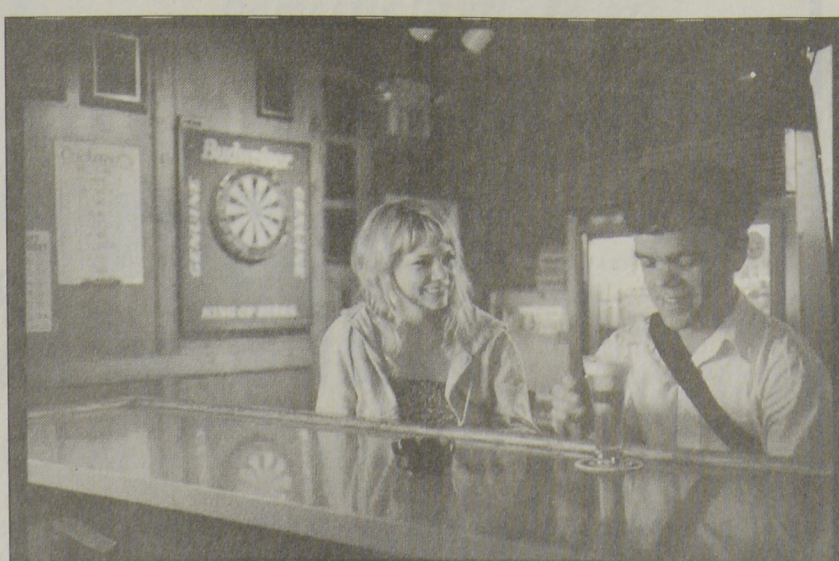
It's not quite trainspotting

Latest Monday Films offering delivers comedy with a touch of sadness

by Jeremy Elder

Thomas McCarthy's film *The Station Agent*, which restarts the Monday Night Film Series screenings after March break, may be plugged as a comedy/drama, but there's something more to it, something a little melancholy. It's a fine, sometimes discreet sadness imbued with depth by an accomplished cast and well-developed script that doesn't go over the top with outlandish characters.

The movie follows the life of Finbar McBride (Peter Dinklage), a lonely man because of his dwarfish stature with an obsession with trains of all sorts. He's built up a strong facade of ambivalence to the outside, and his



Peter Dinklage stars in Thomas McCarthy's *The Station Agent*.

sole friend in the world, it seems, is Henry Styles (Paul Benjamin), owner of the model train shop where Finbar works. When Styles dies suddenly,

Finbar inherits an unlikely gift: an abandoned train station in New Jersey, where he promptly moves. The story takes off after this, following

the listings

Music

Wed 25th
Live hip hop - Capital
CHSR Jam Night - Cellar

Thurs 26th
Matt Mays & El Torpedo - Cellar
Hospital Grade, Missing, ADHD - Bugaboo
Jimmy Rankin - Playhouse
Shaydid - Dolan's
Jam Night - Nicky Zee's

Fri 27th
Troublestarters, Misery Machine, El, The Adults - Elks' Club
Slowcoaster - Capital
Shaydid - Dolan's

Sat 28th
Obsidian Reign, The Rocking Argentos, Gnosh - Pitchman's
Vorcz Trio - Cellar
Nashville Mandolin Ensemble - Playhouse
Slowcoaster - Capital
Shaydid - Dolan's
Live Jazz - DJ Purdy's

Sun 29th
Open turntables - MacPhail's

Mon 1st
Time Beings - Capital
Scarecrow - Bugaboo
Karaoke - Cellar

Tues 2nd
Acoustic Forum - Capital

Art

• *Werkstatt*. By Pierre-Luc Arseneau and Troy Stanley. On display at Memorial Hall.

• Gallery 78 presents the *February Fabulous Food Festival*. Ongoing until February 29th.

• NBCCD presents work by second year photography students, now on display.

• Beaverbrook Art Gallery exhibits: *Tower* (Robin Collyer) and *A Legacy of Art* (Bruno Bobak).

Films

• *The Station Agent*. Monday Night Film Series, March 9th, 8pm, Tilley 102.

Drama & Performance

• The Playhouse presents *The Spirit of Ireland*, Friday, February 27th at 8pm.

• The Chestnut presents a charity fundraiser for Positive Heart Living, Saturday, February 28th.

Locations

Bugaboo Pub, 422 Queen
Capital, 362 Queen
Cellar, SUB (UNB Campus)
Chestnut, 440 York
Dolan's, 349 King
Gallery 78, 796 Queen
Gallery Connexion, 453 Queen (back)
MacPhail's Tap Room, S-5-366 Queen
Memorial Hall, UNB Campus
NB Fine Craft Centre, 87 Regent
Nicky Zee's, 375 King
Pitchman's Pub, King's Place
Playhouse, 686 Queen

** Featured Listing **

Jimmy Rankin

Multiple East Coast Music Award winner Jimmy Rankin will be performing this Thursday, February 26th at The Playhouse. Ranking gained East Coast renown with his years as a member of the popular Cape Breton-based The Rankin Family, and has several hit singles as a solo artist. The show begins Thursday evening at 8pm.

Compiled by Amy Batt for The Brunswickan.

To have your event appear in the listings, e-mail bruns@unb.ca or fax 453-5073.

Top 17



For the week ending
February 23, 2004

1. Various Artists
Zombie Night in Canada (Stumble)
2. Ani DiFranco
Educated Guess (Righteous Babe)
3. Corb Lund Band
Modern Pain (indie)
4. Coldplay
Live 2003 (Parlophone)
5. Various Artists
Bellylicious (Shakti)
6. Kreator
Live Kreations (Spv)
7. Avril
That Horse Must Be Starving (Pias)
8. Various Artists
Bring Your Own Plywood: Calgary Does Connors (Saved By Radio)
9. One Day Late / I Was A Spy
Demo (indie)
10. Beef Terminal
The Isolationist (Noise Factory)
11. Various Artists
Zed: Live Off the Floor (CBC)
12. The Peter Parkers
This is City Music (Pawp Shawp)
13. Ian MacDougall Sextet
Night in Vancouver (Maximum Jazz)
14. Sheila Cooper
While the World is in Slumber (Panorama)
15. Hot Toddy
The Salty Sessions Vol. 1 (indie)
16. Chad Vangalen
Infinitheart (Catch & Release)
17. Troublestarters
Wasted Years (indie)