

# From the Bard-room to the tattoo parlor

Before Keanu Reeves started popping up everywhere — spouting Shakespeare in *My Private Idaho* and in *Much Ado About Nothing* and floating in the sky as *Uma Thurman's* lust object in *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues* — he was in Metro appearing in stage plays.

Actor/drama coach **Natsuko Ohame** helped prep him in the ways of the Bard.

Ohame, a Japanese-Canadian from Rainer, Alta., is founding member of Shakespeare And Co. in Lennox, Mass., which offers a year-round workshop and a summer performing season.

It was there she coached Reeves.

Her other pupils include **Andre Gregory**, **Sigourney Weaver**, **Mario Thomas**, and most recently, **John Lone** in *M. Butterfly*.

Her acting credits include *Flatliners* and *Shanghai 1920*. She was recently in Metro starting in the movie *Sadness For The Moon*, in which she plays a third-generation Japanese-Canadian filmmaker.

Ohame is also a senior artist in the Pan Asian Repertory and the Los Angeles Shakespeare Company. Although she now divides her time between L.A. and New York, she has been director of training for the National Arts Centre under **Jean Gascon** and **John Wood**. She tries to balance her coaching and her acting, but the latter has taken precedence lately.

"When I started straight from highschool in Brooks,



**Star Gazing**

Rita Zekas

Alberta, I went to summer drama camp for kids. A director of the Citadel Theatre asked me if I wanted to do children's theatre.

"The actor side of me won't tell my age," she said evasively.

"I was very impressed with the script for *Sadness For The Moon* (written by the film's director **Midi Ondera**) and the unusual characters. My character is a director trying to make an important film about sexual obsession and tattooing. Pain and power. It's about sexual identity — my character is bisexual. I go to the Bent Club but I don't get tattooed, I watch the tattooing. That's my obsession."

## Back To Roots

Film fest folk flocked to Roots when they weren't being interviewed. **Matt Dillon** (*The Saint Of Fort Washington*) bought out the Avenue Road store last Tuesday — plaid jacket, sweats, T-shirts, baseball hats.

Director **Peter Medak** also stocked up before the screening of his heralded *Romeo Is Bleeding*.

And en route to the screening of *Roosters*, its star **Edward James Olmos** and his spousal equivalent **Lorraine Bracco** (*Even Cowgirls Get The*

*Blues*) and new duo **Peter Coyote** (*Bitter Moon*) and **Beverly D'Angelo** dropped by to drop some bucks.

**Kirstie Alley**, here filming the TV-movie *David's Mother*, stocked up on duds for her own toddler **Drew**.

They were shooting *David's Mother* at La Maquette at King and Church Sts. one day early last week and disrupted streetcar traffic. And the traffic snarl induced a case of acute crankiness in one entertainment editor when he had to hoof it to work.

On Wednesday afternoon, it was girl talk when **Alley** bumped into **Helen Shaver** (here for the two *Janek* TV-movies) and **Heidi von Pallese** on the elevator of her uptown hotel.

## Celeb Sups

**Eric Braeden**, **Victor Newman** on *The Young And The Restless*, had all the female hearts going pitter-pat at North 44 two Saturdays ago . . .

**Richard Crenna** and **Cliff Gorman** dined at Bellini's on Yorkville on Saturday night. They are here doing the TV-movie *Janek, Wallflower* . . . **Billy Moses** (*Melrose Place*) wine and dined at Bistro 990 Wednesday night. **Moses**, who knows from vintages having done a stint on *Falcon Crest*, is here filming *Trial By Jury*.

## Movie Madness

Talk about yer double bill. One night last week, patrons

of the Eglinton theatre exiting *The Fugitive* movie were taken aback to see the marquee and lobby posters changed to *In The Mouth Of Madness*.

Okay, so *Striking Distance* had toppled *The Fugitive* from the top of the box office, but surely it was a bit premature to pull the plug on it. It still had "legs."

Not to worry. No need to take up a collection for **Harrison Ford**. It was just set dressing for the movie *In The Mouth Of Madness*, currently shooting here starring **Sam Neill** and directed by **John Carpenter**.

New to the cast: character actors **John Glover** (*Gremlins 2*), **David Warner** (*Straw Dogs*) and Cambridge native **Sean Ryan**, who played Neill's son in the two-part TV-movie *Family Pictures*.

## Movie Madness 2

Filming has wrapped here on the shortie *The Madness Of Method*, starring veteran character actor **M. Emmet Walsh** (*Serpico*, *Blade Runner*) and **Richard Kind** (*Mad About You*).

**Kind** plays a frustrated actor who goes to **Walsh**, a highly eccentric acting guru, for words of wisdom.

**Barry Avrich**, veep of *Echo Advertising*, is making his directorial debut.

**Avrich** has also sold a script to **Aaron Spelling** and another of his screenplays, *A Woman Scorned*, starts production next month in La La Land.



**NATSUKO OHAME:** In the movie *Sadness Of The Moon*, Ohame is obsessed with the taboo of the tattoo.