

## Foreign Film Series presents *Camila*

by Colleen Fromknecht  
Collegian Staff

The Foreign Film Series presentation of *Camila* will be shown in the Reed Lecture Hall on Tuesday, April 1, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. Directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg, *Camila* was nominated for an Academy Award for the Best Foreign film of 1984.

Bemberg, a descendant from a wealthy Argentinean family, led a pampered life with all the trappings of upper-class society. She married an architect at the age of 20 and raised four children before she started her career as a filmmaker.

After her divorce, she wrote a few scripts and directed two short documentaries before she decided to pursue a career as a director.

Bemberg had difficulty obtaining financing for her early films. She was a 56 year old grandmother who had no college degree, no formal training in filmmaking, and little experience in direction. In twelve years she directed six feature-length films which portray women as strong, independent and courageous people. The critics have judged each film to be more daring and better crafted than the one before.

Two of her films have been featured at the Venice Film Festival, and *Camila* received an Oscar nomination as Best Foreign Film.

Bemberg said she was influenced by French writer Andre Malraux, who stated that one must live what one believes. She decided to tell stories from "the point of view of the woman, with female protagonists".

Bemberg wrote her first feature-length script in 1972, *Cronica de una senora*, which was largely autobiographical. It was hugely successful because of the controversy it provoked by telling the story of a rich and anguished wife.

*Triangulo de cuatro* (1974), told the story of a man who was torn between his traditional wife and his independent mistress. Although it won several scriptwriting awards, Bemberg was not satisfied with the first two films. She said she believed that "no man could understand what was happening with the new awareness of women," so decided to direct herself.

After studying acting in New York with Lee Strasberg, Bemberg returned to Argentina and formed

her own production company with Lita Stantic. In 1981 she wrote, directed and produced her first film. *Momentos* was a tale which dealt with role reversal and an exhausted love affair between two married couples.

The election of Raul Alfonsin in 1982 led to a new commitment to democracy in Argentina. Bemberg resurrected a script she wrote which had been censored by the government in 1979. *Senora de nadie*, as well as the previous film *Momentos*, was largely financed through Bemberg and Stantic's money. When the film received popular acclaim, Bemberg found it easier to obtain financing for her next project.

At the age of 62, Bemberg directed the Academy Award nominated film *Camila*, and received international recognition. *Camila* is based on the true story of Camila O'Gorman and her confessor Father Ladislo Gutierrez. Camila eloped with Gutierrez in 1847 and the couple was executed after being caught.

Bemberg states that "Camila was a transgressor, she broke the received pattern of Argentina, not to mention feminine decorum. Not only did she enjoy a love affair with her priest, but her action fought the paternalistic order of family, church and state."

Bemberg's next film, *Miss Mary* (1986), portrayed the theme of sexual repression and hypocrisy. Julie Christie played the starring role.

In 1991 Bemberg told the story of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, a seventeenth century Mexican nun, in the film *Yo la Peor de Todas*. De la Cruz wrote some of the best poems and essays in Western civilization, yet she was destroyed by the misogyny and fanaticism of the Inquisition.

Her last film, *De eso no se habla* (1993), starred Marcelo Mastroianni and dealt with controversial subject matter. It tells the story of an aging bachelor who had a love affair with a strong-minded adolescent dwarf. The film enjoyed critical and popular acclaim and was shown at the Venice Film Festival in 1994.

Bemberg was a feminist who loved men and did not alienate them. She was working on her seventh film when she died of cancer May 7, 1995.

Director Maria Luisa Bemberg

## Concert Choir to perform Sunday

The Concert Choir at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will perform Faure's *Requiem* Sunday, March 23 at 3 p.m. in the Union Building Commons. This presentation will present the 40 members of the Concert Choir perform the same piece one week later, Sunday, March 30, in concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. At Carnegie Hall the Concert Choir will combine with 200 voices representing six nations. Renowned British composer and conductor John Rutter will lead the combined choir, and an orchestra featuring a harp will accompany the singers.

David C. Stuntz, Penn State Behrend music instructor since 1982, has been involved with the event in the past. "This is a life-in-a-lifetime experience for the choir members," said Stuntz.

"This year's choir has raised more than \$20,000 since last April through selling candy, concerts, a bowl-a-thon, matching funds, and gifts from choir alumni. They worked to learn the music and are looking forward to the performance here and the Carnegie Hall experience."

Although Penn State Behrend does not offer a major in music, the Concert Choir brings a unique



opportunity for students with different levels of musical experience together to reach a goal. Stuntz offers the program that encourages the choir members to pursue their passion to sing with energy, to be inspired about singing and to

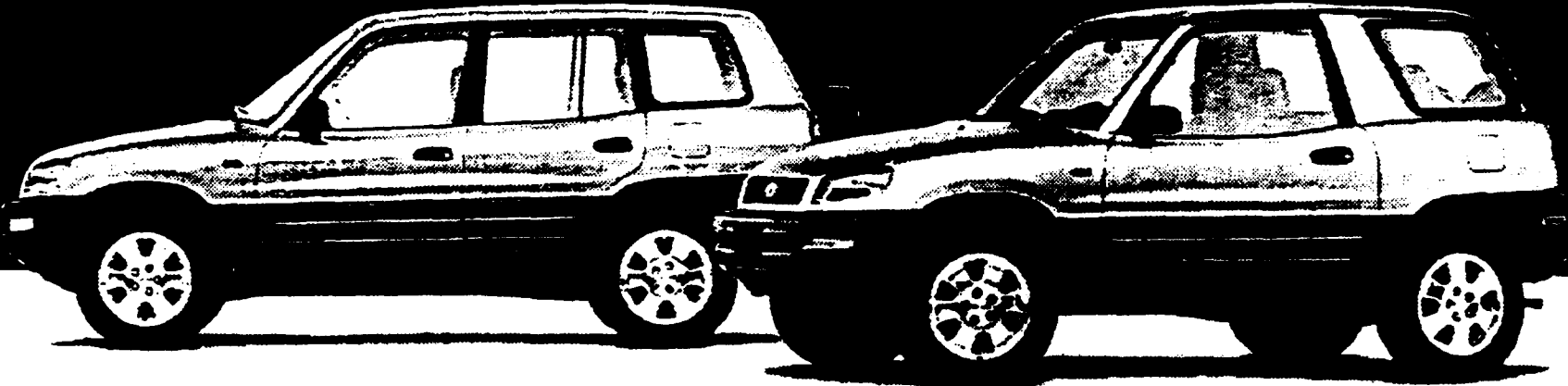
find lifelong enjoyment in music. Admission to the Concert Choir performance at Penn State Behrend on March 23 is \$4. Tickets may be reserved in advance by calling 898-6289. Tickets purchased at the door are \$5.

### Late Night with The Collegian

#### TOP TEN WAYS TO GET THROWN OUT OF CHEM LAB:

10. Pretend an electron got stuck in your ear and insist on describing the sound to others.
9. Give a cup of liquid nitrogen to a classmate and ask, "Does this taste funny to you?"
8. Consistently write three atoms of potassium as KKK.
7. Mutter repeatedly, "Not again. . . not again. . . not again. . ."
6. When it's very quiet, suddenly cry out, "MY EYES!"
5. Deny the existence of chemicals.
4. Begin pronouncing everything your immigrant lab instructor says exactly the way they say it.
3. Casually walk to the front of the room and urinate in a beaker.
2. Pop a paper bag at the crucial moment when the professor is about to pour sulfuric acid.
1. Show up with a 55-gallon drum of fertilizer and express an interest in federal buildings.

# HIGH HONORS



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