

Watch Pesci in *The Public Eye*



Say Cheese!!! Joe Pesci portrays tabloid photographer Leon "Bernzy" Bernstein in his latest film *The Public Eye*.

by Liam O'Mahony
The Collegian

Last Friday was the nationwide release of Universal Pictures *The Public Eye*, starring Joe Pesci and Barbara Hershey.

Although it wasn't playing in local Erie theaters, it should be out by tomorrow. Howard Franklin wrote and directed this film about a freelance photographer who roams the city streets shooting the aftermath of murders, fires, and other worthy catastrophes. Pesci, an Academy Award winner, plays the eccentric Leon "Bernzy" Bernstein, the tabloid photographer with an eye for the underside of life. He also has the soul of an artist and develops a growing love for an unattainable woman, Kay Levitz.

the Oscar after reuniting with both DeNiro and Scorsese in the acclaimed film *GoodFellas*. He has starred in several recent box office smashes such as *Home Alone*, *Lethal Weapon 2*, *Lethal Weapon 3*, *My Cousin Vinny*, and *JFK*. The New Jersey native was formerly a mason's laborer in Las Vegas and a manager of an Italian restaurant in New York City before being discovered by DeNiro.

Barbara Hershey has also starred in several successful films. She was the first to win the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival two years in a row for her performances in *Shy People* (1987) and *A World Apart* (1988).

In 1990 Hershey won both the Emmy and the Golden Globe

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Levitz, played by Emmy and Golden Globe Award winner Hershey, is the owner of a nightclub which she inherited from her late husband. She's afraid of the outside world so she treats the nightclub as her home, while Bernstein is very comfortable with the outside world.

Joe Pesci, who hosted Saturday Night Live a couple weeks ago, is one of the most successful actors in the industry today. He was first nominated for an Academy Award in 1980 for his role opposite Robert DeNiro as boxer Jake LaMotta's brother in Martin Scorsese's *Raging Bull*. It wasn't until 1990 that he won

Awards for her portrayal of a wife charged with a brutal axe murder in *A Killing in a Small Town*. A native of Hollywood who was discovered by a talent agent while still in high school, her best known roles are *Beaches*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Tin Men*, and *The Natural*.

Nicknamed "The Great Bernzini" for his ability to arrive first on the scene of murders and fires, Bernstein's single-minded devotion for the right picture and dream to have his "art" published has left him an isolated loner. When the glamorous Levitz requests his aid, his growing feelings for her lead him to the discovery of a wartime government scandal that has serious consequences on his art and life.

Bernstein begins to accept isolation as necessary to the completion of his work, because he feels he can't find a connection to the world except through his pictures. His devotion to his hobby and job result in his turning the trunk of his car into a mobile darkroom. Bernzy's photographs seem artless, there's no special techniques, but that's what makes them great art.

The Public Eye was produced by Robert Zemeckis, the film maker who brought us the enormously successful *Romancing the Stone*, the *Back to the Future* trilogy, and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

The Public Eye is rated R and should be playing in local theaters this week.

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