

Arts & Entertainment

Aspiring filmmaker to shoot short flick in town

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Early next month, Milton will be the scene of a movie shoot and the finished product will be screened at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

No, you won't see Steven Spielberg scoping out the Mill Pond or Julia Roberts drinking lattes on Main Street. Nor will there be sightings of Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston or Jennifer Lopez.

But you will see Miltonian and novice

filmmaker Jason Boles — and that's nothing to scoff at. If he has anything to say about it, his name will one day be a household one.

The first weekend in March, Mr. Boles, 25, who's a student at Toronto's International Academy of Design and Technology, will be shooting in his hometown for his final project before he graduates. The assignment is to write and direct a short film or be a part of another student's. Not one to shirk hard work or take the easy way out, Mr. Boles immediately began writing the script for his own film.

"The film will have minimal characters," he explained. "The main character has schizophrenia, and he keeps having a recurring nightmare where he witnesses a murder."

Not surprisingly, Mr. Boles said the type of movie he's most drawn to is the psychological thriller.

"He lives with his girlfriend," Mr. Boles said of the main character, "but she doesn't exist. She's a personality of his."

The film will be shot in three locations, one being a Main Street alley.

He said he hopes the somewhat startling ending will leave viewers wanting more — that's the type of film he enjoys, and that's the kind he said he wants to make.

He said students' completed films will be shown in a student showcase at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Mr. Boles is a graduate of Milton District High School, where he made the decision to seriously pursue filmmaking after taking

a media arts class and communications technology. "It took a huge grip on me and I thought, 'This is what I want to do.'"

But, Mr. Boles said, a love of movies is something that has always been a part of him. "I loved to go to the video store and pick one out. I was interested in what went on behind the scenes," he said.

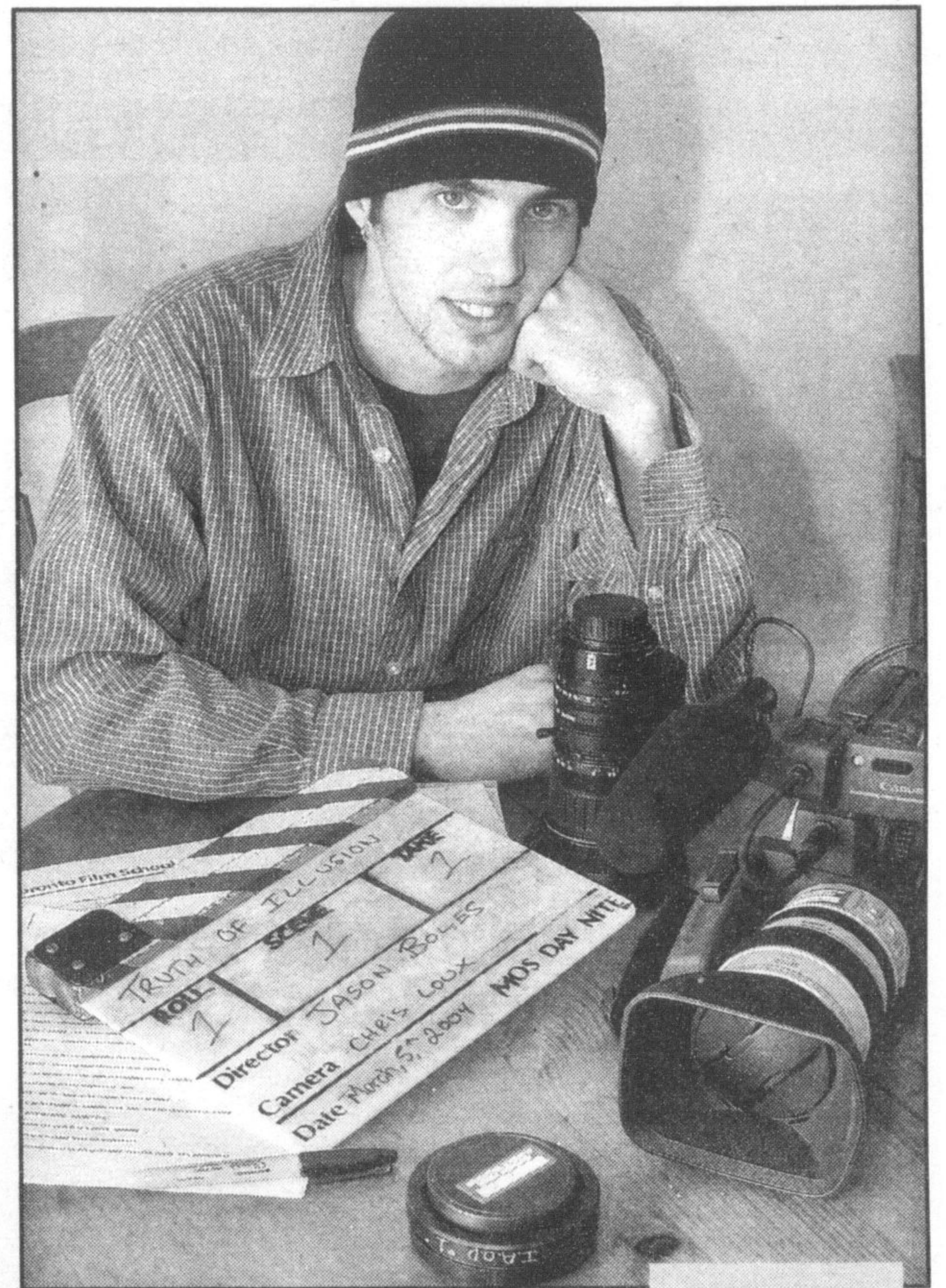
After doing his research on different schools with film programs, he finally decided on the one-year program at the International Academy of Design and Technology.

Now that the program's nearing completion, Mr. Boles said he finds himself faced with the challenge of getting his name out there and making himself known to all the right people. That's a job that isn't for wimps, he said. "You have to hammer your way in and do as much as you can with the best attitude. It's such a fast-moving environment — you have to be fast-paced. The industry doesn't put up with falling behind."

When it comes to making a name for yourself in the world of movies, you start at the bottom and — hopefully — work your way up, he said. And that's just what he's been doing, volunteering for various television productions and films. Although that's something that doesn't pay the bills, Mr. Boles said he doesn't mind giving his time for free. He simply loves doing anything he can to gain more experience — even if it means being designated as the coffee-getter. "I've been a part of semi-professional shoots, and just being a part of it is so exciting. It doesn't matter what I do."

Filmmakers have a sense of power, he said, because they get to decide how the audience should feel at any given moment. And that's one of the reasons he said he dreams of one day making big-time films.

Mr. Boles said he realizes a decision that he'll have to eventually make is if he wants



Miltonian Jason Boles is ready and excited about shooting his first film in town early next month.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

to stay in Canada or migrate to the U.S. where he said entry into the film industry isn't nearly as difficult.

"A lot of my teachers have worked in the States and say if you have the experience, you can get a job just like that," he said.

Although it'll take lots of elbow grease, Mr. Boles said he doesn't doubt that one day he'll make films for a living.

"I want it so bad. I'm going to do it."

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