

**On Location>** Movie director Richard Frantzis, at right, reviews dailies with crew on location.



## **From Buses to Films, MTA's Richard Frantzis gets things rollin'**

By JENNIFER YEH

(May 15, 2003) Lights! Camera! Action! As soon as the film starts rolling, sitting in the director's chair is MTA's Richard Frantzis – manipulating every scene and character to create the masterpiece he envisions.

Making and directing movies for over a decade, Transit Operations Supervisor Richard Frantzis has written, produced and directed dozens of films, commercials, public service announcements and music videos. At MTA, Frantzis is a Bus Operations Control dispatcher.

A graduate of Columbia University with a degree in film and television production, Frantzis was always one of the top four students in his class. In film school, he even had opportunities to direct such famous actors as Gregory Hines and Amy Irving in several short skits.

Frantzis taught himself to make movies through reading "how-to" books and experimenting with his camera.

"I found the books to be interesting and, since I liked making videos, I bought myself a camera and taught myself how to use it," he says.

### **Making feature films**

Living in Miami at the time, Frantzis started by making music videos for local musicians. In a few short years, he made three feature films before moving to Los Angeles to further pursue the business.

With financial support from investors, he recently finished his fourth film, a romantic drama called *Permanent Games*, which he says is based on a personal life experience. It had its premiere, March 29, at Culver City Studios.

"I'm entering it in film festivals, so I'm hoping it will win some prizes and I'll be able to sell it to a distributor," he says.

His upcoming film project is called *The Connections*. He'll begin filming in a couple of weeks and will take about a year to finish the project.

"I get most of my idea for movies through real life experiences," he says.

Asked about his plans for the future, Frantzis says, "What I really want to do is sell my films to MTV or HBO and try to turn them into television series."

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