



Left: "Sarge" Hayes is a regular on Jones Street and was a chatty presence in the film.

Center: A dream came true for "Indian Joe" Plamondon, center left, because of the mural. With him in the 107.7 radio studio are cameraman Michael Dunston, rock star Alice Cooper and the mural's videographer Paige Bierma.

Top: Marvin Debow and his wife Davonne are elated to be in the mural. He points to their spot in the painting. Photos far left and right are by Paige Bierma. Center photo courtesy of FM Radio Station 107.7

Caron mural a showcase for characters and source of pride for the community

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others about it."

Indian Joe is a main character in the film and part of "the most lively and interesting interaction" Caron says she's had in 12 years painting street murals. Every day people came up to her to ask technical questions, or to blurt out "what is this?" before realizing it was their neighborhood appearing before them. Then asking, "Can I be in it?"

"People were open and willing to share," Caron said, who recently completed murals in Bolivia and San Mateo. "I learned a lot. There

are nearly 300 people in it. I tried really hard to get everyone in but I just had to stop. It was never-ending. Maybe I'll come back and add some more someday."

Caron says that as she painted she became a "slow motion performance act" watched daily by a "Greek chorus" — the food line from St. Anthony's Dining Room across the street.

In a film preview on the Internet, The Extra saw the community enthusiasm grow as scenes and characters developed and whimsy like a passing antic bicyclist were added to the two walls on the northeast corner. Besides Plamondon, other neighborhood characters

getting prime time are kitemaker Jeff Marshall, the ever-present Didi Crane and Huey Newton's grandson Richard Rice.

While Bierma's lens catches most of the characters in lively sidewalk talk — including a comically staggering pair of arm-in-arm singing drunks — she takes us into Marshall's cramped SRO room in the Boyd Hotel just across the street where he constructs colorful kites and lets him tell his story of being homeless and strung-out. In the mural he's a lone figure atop the Boyd, flying a kite.

One of Bierma's favorite scenes is when Caron discovers that an unprotected part of the

mural has been defaced. Near the image of a prowling car, in the street, was scrawled: FUCK. Caron, obviously hurt, says as she paints over it that she was warned this might happen. What Bierma's camera catches next is the outrage of Caron's sidewalk supporters, who feel insulted that someone would so diss their neighborhood. "They take ownership (of the mural)," she says.

In the 14 months since the mural was completed, Plamondon estimates, 10 of the 300 depicted have died.

Out of this project, too, grew Indian Joe's once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting rock

star Alice Cooper, one of his favorites ever since a friend years ago drew imitative black lines down from his eyes. When Plamondon heard that Cooper was going to play the Warfield last year he was beside himself. Broke though he was, he turned food stamps into a ticket. But the real surprise for the Shuswap Canadian Indian was when Bierma took him to radio station 107.7 on Hawthorne Street in SoMa to meet Cooper.

"You know the first thing he said when he saw me?" Plamondon says. "Am I looking into a fuckin' mirror?"

Their videoed meeting made the film, but

not the language.

The year of filming "was a good experience — both ways," Bierma says.

"A Brush with the Tenderloin" may have an afterlife. Bierma intends to enter it in the East Coast's Silverdocs festival, the San Francisco International Shorts Festival, Mill Valley Film Festival and possibly others. ■

"A Brush with the Tenderloin" will be shown May 13 at 3:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m. in suite A at 134 Golden Gate Ave. Q and A's with Bierma will follow.

City's new sit/lie law has yet to yield any citations in the Tenderloin

BY TOM CARTER

These photos depict people on Tenderloin sidewalks who could possibly be subject to the city's new sit/lie law. Police have yet to cite anyone in the neighborhood under this law.

THE hand-smacking sit/lie ordinance that grew out of troubles the Haight-Ashbury cops couldn't solve doesn't appear to be used much by Tenderloin police or by complaining residents in the neighborhood where hundreds of people hang out on sidewalks, some to escape the tight confines of their SRO rooms.

The "Civil Sidewalks" law voters passed in November became effective Dec. 17. But officers had to undergo a special training on its complexities, so enforcement didn't begin until March 1.

Tenderloin police have yet to write a sit/lie citation, according to TL Capt. Joe Garrity.

The law prohibits sitting or lying on sidewalks, or on objects on them, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.

A spot check by The Extra of three police

districts for the week of April 16-22 showed that the Tenderloin had just four "calls for service" from people phoning in for suspected sit/lie violations; Southern District, which includes Sixth Street, had 25; and Park District, which includes the Haight, had 30.

"Four to five is about normal for us," Garrity said.

Police only keep calls for service in each district, said Lt. Troy Dangerfield, SFPD spokesman. "There is no breakdown of arrests,

citations or warnings per district."

That same week citywide there were no sit/lie arrests, but six citations and 49 "advisements" — warnings to move or the cops can come back and cite you. But nobody can be cited without first being warned in writing.

"Every case is different," Garrity said. "It could be medical, or drunk or a number of things. Having experience helps."

The law has eight exceptions that Garrity wants the public to know. Most are obvious:

prostrate people needing medical attention, folks in wheelchairs, customers at outdoor cafes, people attending performances, parades, demonstrations and so on, sitting on street furniture, sitting in line for goods and services (if not impeding pedestrians), children in strollers and folks lounging in a Pavement to Parks project.

The first offense is an infraction. If convicted, a fine ranges from \$50 to \$100 and/or community service. Incurring a second citation

within 24 hours is a misdemeanor and a conviction brings a \$200 to \$300 fine and/or community service, and/or up to 10 days in jail. Anyone cited within 120 days of a conviction, and is then found guilty of the misdemeanor, faces a \$400 to \$500 fine, and/or community service, and/or up to 30 days in jail.

In Garrity's weekly community newsletter he offers to furnish anyone a summary of the law and a page of FAQs. ■



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO