

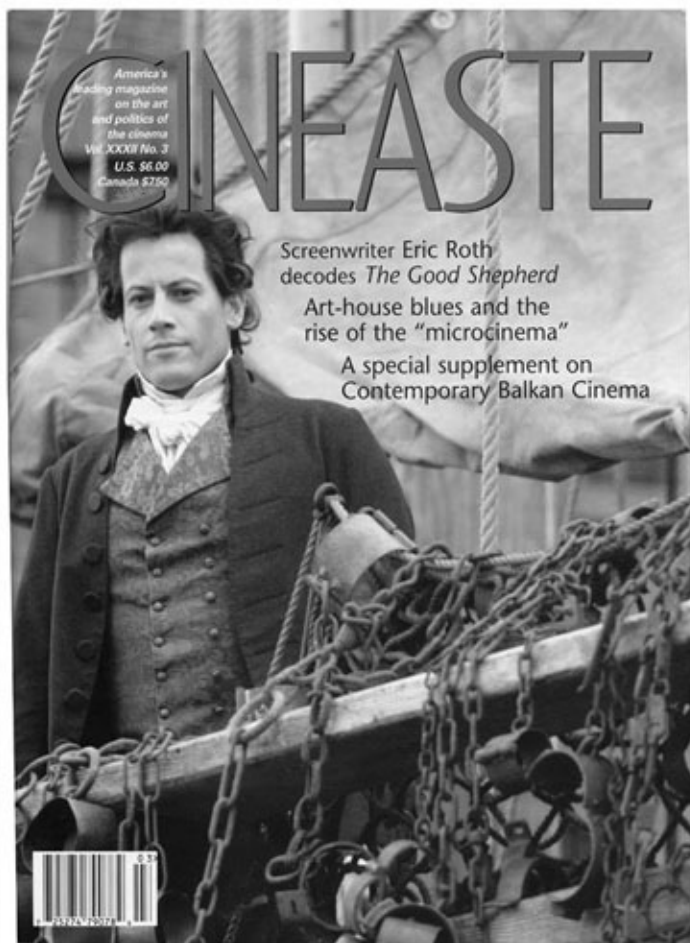
CINEASTE

"AMERICA'S LEADING MAGAZINE ON
THE ART OF POLITICS AND THE CINEMA"

SHORT TAKES

9/11: *Dust and Deceit at the WTC*

"Given the scope of the tragedy from last week, I am glad to reassure the people of New York and Washington, D.C., that their air is safe to breathe and their water is safe to drink." This quote from former EPA administrator, Christine Todd Whitman, stands as the ironic banner under which director Penny Little positions her eye-opening film. Six years after the events of September 11, 2001, the environmental and health effects of the collapsing World Trade Center in Manhattan's Financial District are forgotten to all but those who suffered them. Little's film brings this issue back to the forefront, arguing that despite intelligence to the contrary, the EPA and the United States government knowingly lied to the public about the safety of the air in and around lower Manhattan and that the actual danger was being downplayed even days after the attacks. (Whitman's statement, which also opens the documentary, was made on September 14, 2001.) Little recruits the voices of EPA employees, New York members of Congress, environmental organizations, scientists, and medical personnel, who lend their authority to her charges. The film's sense of outrage at the government's attitude is palpable. Interviewees use words like "irresponsible," "lying," and "terrorist" to describe the response of the White House and the EPA to the immediate and long-term health dangers in Lower Manhattan. New Yorkers currently suffering from directly related health problems effectively give the issue a human face. As a native New Yorker, this writer found some of the images in the film extremely difficult to watch. Yet they drove the point home. (Distributed by People to People TV, www.peopletopeople.tv, phone (805) 685-5945)—**Penina Wiesman**



CONTACT: PENNY LITTLE
805-320-7981

PO Box 20281
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93120
PENNY@PEOPLETPEOPLE.TV

WWW.911DUST.ORG