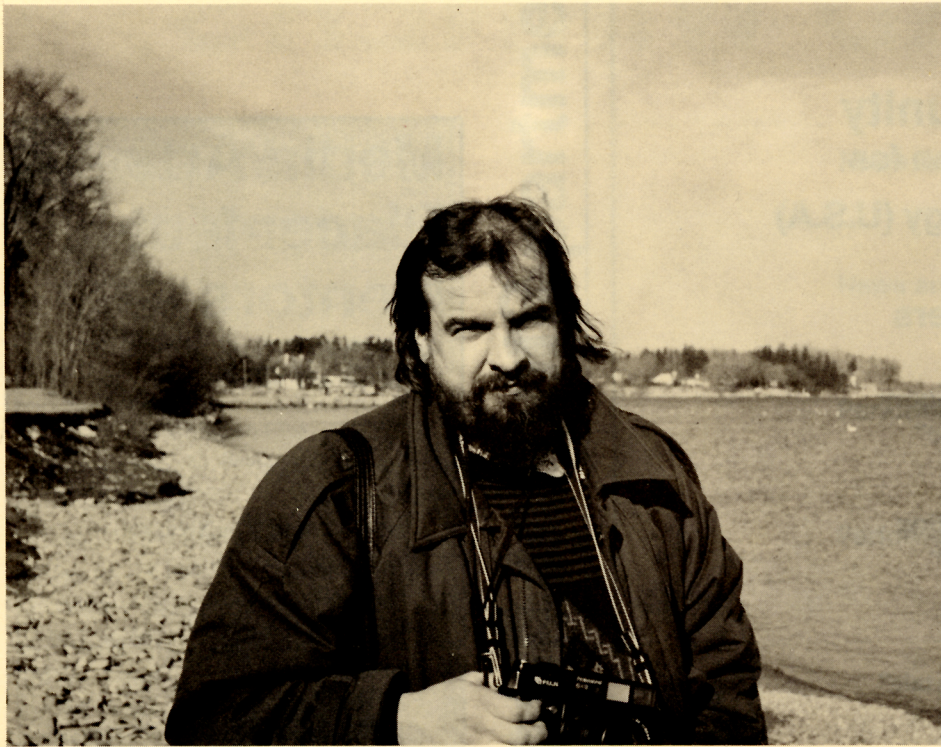


# Interview with Vladimir Kabelik

By Robert Leslie and Vicki Shepherd



*Vladimir Kabelik*

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1951, Vladimir Kabelik started his career in media from birth. His grandfather had been a filmmaker; his father is a filmmaker too. Kabelik's appreciation for the medium is a result of their lifelong influence and encouragement. This early attraction to film has evidently been coupled in Kabelik with a firm belief in his ability to accomplish whatever he sets out to do.

Kabelik studied film for six years at Prague's Academy of Film and Television Arts. After graduating, he went on to gain experience as director and writer for *Kratky Film*. He also worked as a freelance producer for Czechoslovakia Television, Radio Prague, and the musical agency, *Pragokonzert*.

Dissatisfied with the political repression in his country and believing Canada to be one of the "mentally healthiest" countries in the world, Kabelik brought his wife and children

to live in Toronto in 1982. Taking every job he could get related to the film industry, Kabelik wasted no time succeeding here. Whether he was aiding technicians, building sets, or working behind the camera (directing jobs were the easiest kind to get for a guy without a union card), Kabelik worked hard to learn English and to make a place for himself in the Canadian film industry.

Kabelik has made television commercials and worked for the CBC (*The Nature of Things*), TVOntario, CTV (*W-5*), ACCESS Alberta, Saskatchewan Cable Network, and VISION TV. He has received many film and television awards for his work from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania, the USSR, and Canada. It was while making a film portrait of an Oakville artist for *The Nature of Things* that he heard of a job opening at Sheridan College. It was for a film teacher in

the Media Arts Program.

More recently Kabelik has been involved in producing multi-image/ multi-media presentations for Sheridan as a multi-image professor. The latest show combined the talents of senior students in the department and several Toronto production companies (Key-Frame Productions, Tel-AV, Avatar, and Interaxis). The audience was witness to a display of images controlled through a choreographed collaboration of man and machine. Projectors, patched through dissolve units and computer interfaces, projected images onto multiple screens, complemented by computer graphics and laser acrobatics. Kabelik has plans to incorporate dance and live stage performance in the next multi-image show due this Spring. When asked about his feelings on the success of the show, Kabelik acknowledged that this new and exciting multi-image art form, like anything else, needs time to develop at a natural pace.

Last summer Kabelik found time to return to Czechoslovakia. He enjoyed reunions with family and friends and shot footage for an independent project. *Cutaway Films* will be producing his series of thirteen musical programs. The series will feature the music of such classical composers as Bach and Mozart. The visuals combine the footage which was collected last summer in Europe with Canadian scenery. The search for mood and truth in the music, in the grand architecture and landscape of Europe, and in the natural beauty of our land, promises a potent show. The series is due to be aired in Saskatchewan in April. We can look forward to seeing it here on Vision TV next September.

Asked to choose the images that he felt best describe himself, Kabelik gave two distinct images: one is the fury of a public demonstration; the other is the solitude of an empty beachscape. If one were to attempt to discern the "medium" between these two evocative images, one just might be able to envision Vladimir Kabelik going about his life, intent upon his work.