

# Sasha's on the move in movies

**ENTERTAINING, fast moving, unpredictable — that's Sasha Hadden's recipe for a successful movie.**

Sasha, 16, has been in the industry for more than six years and is one of Australia's top student film makers.

In a national competition last month the Galston High School student was awarded the prize for best drama by the Australian Teachers of Media.

But the promising film director may have to give up media studies at school because of cutbacks announced by State Education Minister Terry Metherell.

Other Approved Studies, such as the media course, are prime targets for cutbacks.

Galston High School stands to lose nine teachers under the new staffing formula and a spokesman said decisions on courses would be made within the next two weeks.

Sasha, in Year 10, be-

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by **CHRISTOPHER O'HEARN**

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lieves the media studies course is too important to scrap.

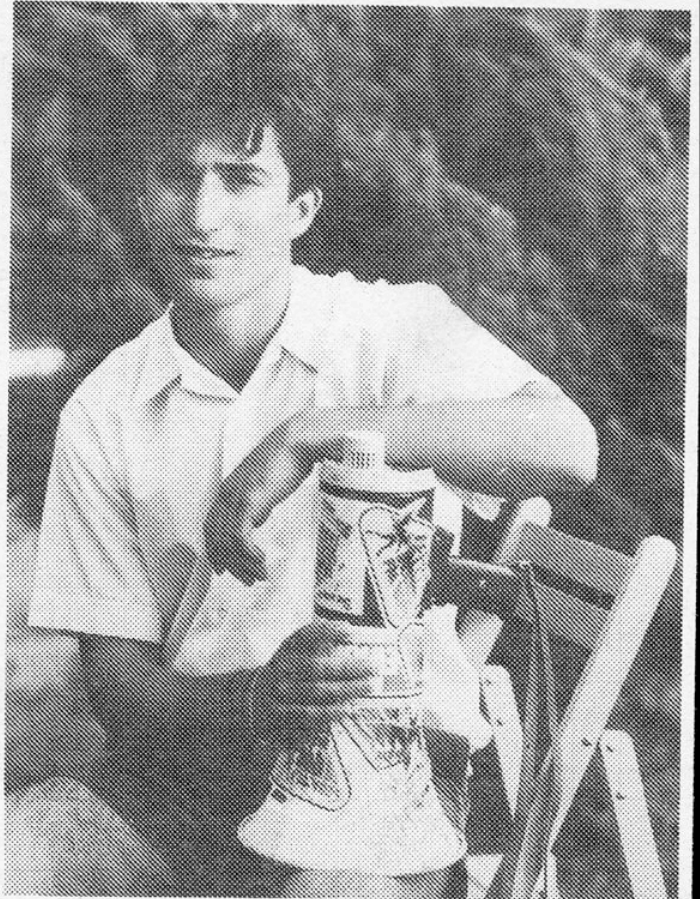
"In the long run it would bring the standard of Australian films down," he said.

Sasha has already mapped out his entry to the Australian Film and Television School at Macquarie University and has definite ideas about his future in films.

"The one main purpose of films is escapism — entertainment," he said.

"People like films where they don't know what is going to happen.

"When I see something that is really boring I think 'What a waste'. It's supposed to be arty, but I can't understand why people go out of their way to make something boring."



## **ACTION . . . Sasha's a winner on film.**

Not surprisingly, Sasha is a great admirer of Steven Spielberg, but can't put his finger on a favorite film.

"My favorite type are films that create a magical effect like *Cocoon* or *ET*.

"I like comedy because people like to laugh and it's hard to make them laugh."

Sasha's award winning film was his first solo effort, although he has helped other young directors and is a regular at the film school and production companies.

"I did a few backyard films but this is the first one I've put together properly.

"The first day of filming,

I was really nervous because I didn't know if I was going to be a good director."

The 20 minute action-adventure, called *Robert*, was a "super-mega-low budget" effort using the acting talents of Galston High students.

Sasha managed to stay within his \$1000 limit, saved from part-time work, even though the 16 days of filming were spread over six months.

"My next one will be about emotions — friendships between kids.

"After I do that I'll do a funny, action film and then go to the film school."