

A Weegee-cum-Wilder Wannabe

As with most unions connected to the film industry, getting into Local 644 (a local for cameramen and still photographers) isn't easy—in the past two years, only four new members have been admitted. Most of them come from a fashion- or commercial-photography background, and got their foot in the door with fabulous, slick portfolios. But **Gene Page**, who was a photojournalist for eight years before he tried his hand at location photography, is more likely to include pictures of plane crashes in the work he shows. “On one movie, I had to photograph dead bodies,” says Page, who was elected into the union this year and is regarded as one of the trade’s hot new talents. “I’ve covered more shootings than I can count, and I’ve had blood on my shoes plenty of times from crime scenes. It was kind of nice to realize it’s all fake and that the kid’s going to get up and walk away.” Page has worked on eleven films in two years, ranging from low-budget 16-mm. projects to his latest, *If Lucy Fell*, a

romantic comedy starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Ben Stiller, and Elle Macpherson that’s currently filming in Manhattan. Like everyone else, *he wants to direct*. Page has several story ideas registered with the Writers Guild and hopes to shoot a ten-minute short this summer. He already has the requisite auteur hubris. “I’m not about to take that kind of money”—meaning a feature-film budget—“and do it until I feel I’m absolutely ready. It could be five years; it could be sooner. But I’m going to do it. No question.”



Page took this ‘Age of Innocence’ shot while visiting the set.

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