



■ Film makers Julia and Michael Wiese with chairman of the board of trustees, Ben Read. 0911TW03004



■ Ferenc Gorogh, of the Budapest Short Film Festival, Falmouth Film Festival intern Marion Monnier and Tomas Gabeli, also of the Budapest festival enjoy themselves at the gala evening. 0911TW03001



■ Student film makers Fiona Gallagher (left) and Rebecca Tiernan with Jonathan Davis of the UK Film Council. 0911TW03009

Soldier's tale has film festival crowd reeling



■ The upstairs bar of the Phoenix Cinema, Falmouth was full to the brim for opening gala night of the Cornwall Film Festival. 0911TW03008

THE best of Cornwall's film talent was showcased at the weekend.

With a new venue, the annual Falmouth Film Festival produced a wide range of screenings.

Possibly one of the most interesting, yet uncomfortable, was a documentary about former soldier Martin Webster.

The 32-year-old filmed a beating incident by fellow soldiers in Iraq in 2004, that hit the headlines two years later and resulted in him leaving the Light Infantry, although he was never charged.

Diary of a Disgraced Soldier follows his post-military life, including video diaries charting Webster's thoughts and feelings about adjustment to the civilian world.

In it he says: "You need to be able to kill people, that's what we are there to do."

"When you are carrying around the soul of a murderer you need to learn to cleanse your soul."

"I am not amused at my behaviour, but I understand now why I was acting like that. The

guilt has gone now.

"I have said my sorrys. I needed to say my sorry as a story. Now I feel like I have had my say."

With the help of painting and music, Mr Webster works through his anger, shame and struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder.

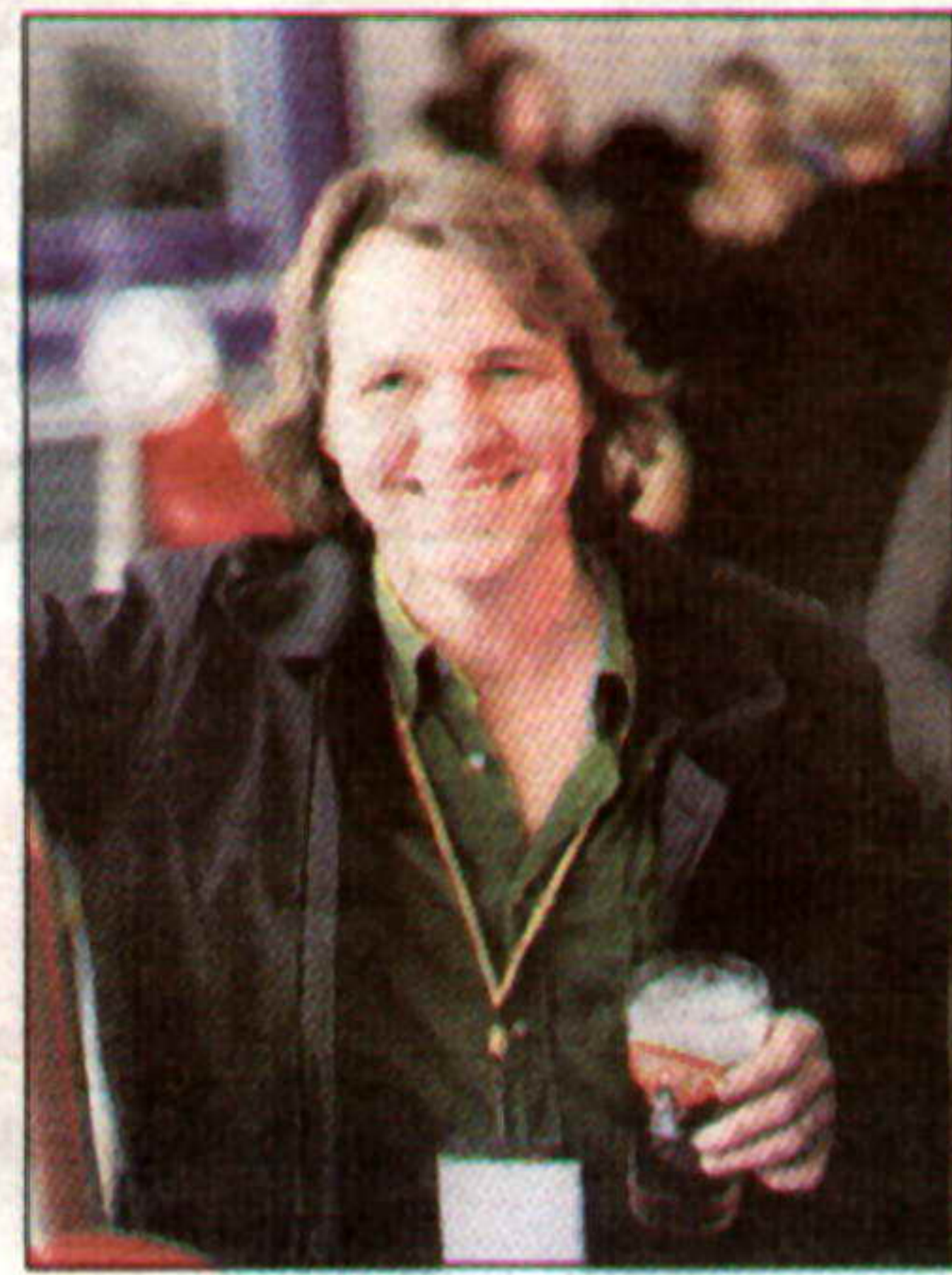
He said: "The whole film became like a form of catharsis and I learnt a lot about myself and I would not change anything for the world."

Organisers of the festival said highlights included the Cornish-made shorts, features, documentaries and dance films by film makers and students from across the county.

Reel Cornwall was footage from the BFI archives dating back to 1904, including promotional films from Holmans of Camborne and the Great Western Railway.

There was special screening of the climate-change feature film *The Age of Stupid*, followed by a panel discussion led by Mark Paterson of the Eden Project.

There were also premieres of feature films weeks or months



■ Screenplay writer Mark David Hartwood was in attendance. 0911TW03007

before they're released in the UK, including *Disgrace*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *Glorious 39*.

There were insights into *The Men Who Stare at Goats* and *Other True Tales of Everyday Crazy* with special guest, author and journalist Jon Ranson.

This year the festival lost two

members, past director Laura Hardman and executive producer Simon Channing Williams.

A special event celebrated Laura and Simon's creative lives, the joy they gave to others through films they made, films made about them, or with films they cherished.

Murray Lachlan Young, performance poet and BBC Radio broadcaster, hosted this year's awards ceremony.

Festival winners: Cornish Films: best film, *Aurora's Kiss* by Mark Jenkin; best idea, *Sunseekers* by Jason Bradbury, Luke Martin and Charlotte Whatley; technical excellence, *Fleapit* by Brett Harvey and Ian Bucknole; student films: best film, *Kuganiza* by Sam Palmer; best idea, *Assistance* by Rik Burnell, Adam Jones and Joe Wheatley; technical excellence, *Ctrl Alt Shift* by Simon Lane and Dean Moore. Audience awards: film of the festival, *Hedlud the Musical* by David Brittain and Christina Lauridsen; best student film, *Life of Prisk* by Steve Wright; another country international short film, *Love Child* by Daniel Wirtberg.



■ Guests Elizabeth and Josephine Stewart enjoy a drink. 0911TW03005



■ Cornwall Film Festival director Donna Anton with deputy director John Bennett. 0911TW03006



■ Pippa Best of the Falmouth Film Festival steering group with trustee Lucy Morgan. 0911TW03003



■ Jim Carey and David Bacon of Cornish band Barveks (Men with Beards) provided music for the evening. 0911TW03002