

HISTORY OF BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

(Is the movie fact or fiction?)

Between Christmas 1997 and New Year's 1998, a very special feature film experiment took place for the first time. After a chance meeting with **Jimmy Phillips**, a poet and the superintendent at the Ravenswood apartments whom was about to be evicted from his own apartment, director **Stefan Lysenko** set out to prove his Bliss/Blissing theory correct. **BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S** was shot in seven days, un-scripted on film, using improvisations as well as conventional filmmaking techniques, which were based on imaginary as well as real life circumstances. The crew of ten used two simultaneous running 16mm cameras, stayed under a budget of five thousand dollars and followed the rules of the 10 Commandments of **Bliss**. A few of the real life circumstances include the eviction papers, which **Jimmy** holds and refers to as the film begins. The first day of shooting was **Jimmy's** last day in his apartment at the Ravenswood and several members of the crew loaded **Jimmy's** personal belongings in to the equipment truck while the other crewmembers set up the second location. In addition, **Richard** the newly arrived tenant at the Ravenswood complex who, while taking photographs from the roof top, finds **Jimmy** at the roof's edge was actually **Richard Edkins** a newly arrived visitor from Britain who is an avid photographer and currently has a photo exhibit up on the internet. **Lysenko's** direction to the cast was simple, "Use your life, it means the most to you thus it will mean the most to us." Now it's the viewer's opportunity to decide for themselves what is fact and what is fiction while they take the ride as the **Bliss** production team did **BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**.

