John Turturro hopes his personal film reaches its audience

By Douglas D. Keller

John Turturro's name may not be a household word, but he is one of the great young Hollywood actors. Film buffs will remember him as the neurotic bookie in Miller's Crossing. But lack of recognition doesn't seem to bother Turturro, "Most of the movies that I haven't done have made a $100 million," he said. "I would not elaborate on the projects that he has turned down."

"I'm not at all unhappy," he continued, "I'm not at all unhappy with the projects that have been presented in Spike's films, Turturro said, "I won't start out as a political type of film. But I really don't think that the whole thing about a funeral is that it is not a type of skit humor like Saturday Night Live."

"You go with an instinct," Turturro answered when asked about the humor in the film. "The interesting thing is that if you do things your own way. Vico's birthday party is the same vein, "I instinctively put the mother in a different context because it is too hard."

"The film traces the trials of Mac through trying to make it as an independent contractor, from bad land purchases to keeping his brothers motivated. Along the way Mac is forced to challenge the people in a daily basis. He also confronts an unscrupulous builder who used the Vitelli brothers' finished homes as models for his own houses.

Turturro, Badalucco, and Capotorto are excellent in their depiction of the Vitelli brothers. Turturro is once again very convinc- ing in his role as the confused Bruno. This is not the first time that Turturro, Badalucco, and Capotorto have worked together and the same family that they create on the screen is remarkable. In one scene the three men sit in the bathroom together - Turturro is using the toilet, Badalucco is shaving, and Capotorto is in the bathtub. There is no embarrassment or ill-ease between the actors, they just appear to be brothers in an everyday situation.

The problem with the movie is that it is singularly focused on Mac's obsession with doing things his own way. Vico's attempts at being a ladies' man is utilized only in comic inter- ludes. Bruno's desire to be a full-blooded artist and his relation- ship with Oona are barely explored. As a result there is enough character develop- ment to explain their departure from Vitelli Bros. Construction.

Turturro has done a fine job in directing his first film. The act- ing is convincing and the camer- a work is engaging and dar- ing, with close ups on the construction work being per- formed. Mac is an interesting and enjoyable film, but I was left with the feeling that it could have been better and that the characters of Alice and Oona could have been more fully explored.