

Movie Clips & Theater Cues

APR 21 1984

BURRELLE'S



Jeff Pomerantz and Justine Seymour pretend to battle creature that will appear in film version of *Battlefield Earth*

Hubbard's 'Battlefield Earth' getting ready for the cameras

By Kenneth Shorey
News movie & theater critic

Ken Annakin has been named director of two forthcoming multimillion-dollar motion pictures based on L. Ron Hubbard's bestselling science fiction saga *Battlefield Earth* at a party last month in his honor given by Bridge Publications, publishers of the book.

The party, held at Oscar's on the famed Sunset Strip, coincided with the official publication of the 1,066-page mass paperback edition of Hubbard's epic tale of intergalactic war and peace in the year 3000 A.D.

With more than 1 million copies already in print, the mass paperback edition of the 1983 hardcover bestseller was already on *The New York Times'* and other national paperback bestseller lists March 13, its official date of publication.

In an award-winning career spanning more than three decades, Annakin has directed such film classics as *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*, *The Longest Day* and *The Battle of the Bulge*, and many TV

miniseries, including Harold Robbins' *The Pirate*.

Producer Bill Immerman has produced such films as *Southern Comfort*, *Take This Job and Shove It* and *Wild in the Streets*, and has been involved with the production of *Star Wars*, *The Omen* and *Silver Streak*.

Immerman has already announced plans to produce two separate, sequential films from Hubbard's sprawling chronicle of revolt among the galaxies.

Invading the party from the planet Psychlo was a 30-foot-high inflatable Terl, the gas-breathing villain of Hubbard's story. Stopping traffic on the Sunset Strip for hours, Terl also held Chrissie, the book's heroine, captive, further commanding spectator attention.

Those attending the party included Lisa Eichhorn, of *Yanks*, and Dorothy McGuire, whom Annakin directed in *Swiss Family Robinson*. Also attending were musicians Chick Corea and Nicky Hopkins, both of whom are featured on the album *Battlefield Earth*, the first soundtrack ever produced for a book, according to the publishers.