

With six films out this year and a non-stop background of television and movie roles, 33 year old Tim Guinee should be a household name. He attributes his low profile to his incredible, almost chameleon-like versatility. Classically trained, with a long history of major roles in Shakespearean productions, Guinee has also played a cheese salesman in *The Night We Never Met*, and abusive sergeant in *Heaven and Earth*, a gay social worker in *Chain of Desire*, an alcoholic in *The Pompatus of Love*, a 60's rocker with waist-length hair in *The Duke of Groove*, a drug-addicted comic in the British miniseries *Comics*, an underground theatre director in *Kalamazoo*, a painter in *How to Make an American Quilt...* and, coming up, a wheel-chair bound veteran in Ed Zwick's *Courage Under Fire*, which also stars Denzel Washington.

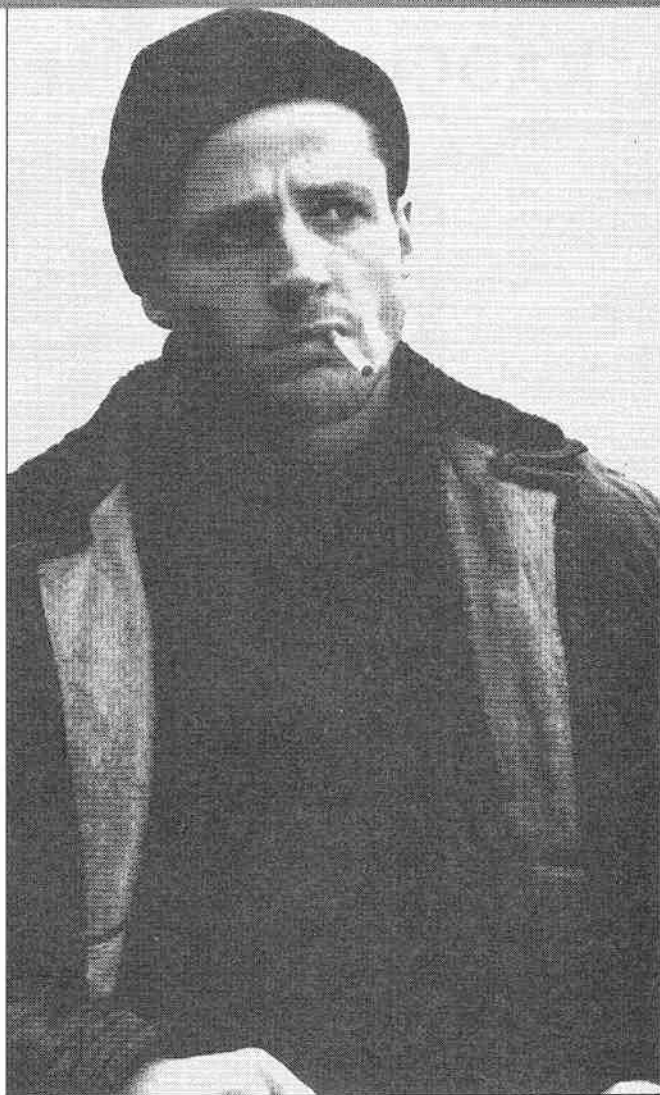
When I met Tim, at an upper West Side cafe, he had rolled uptown in the wheelchair he has been glued to ever since he started rehearsing his role. "American Quilt is a good story of six women who describe what love has meant in their lives," Tim told me. "I think it's a wonderful movie because it doesn't rely on an answer which is the usual Hollywood trip. I'm mad about a 13th-century poet named Jelaluddin Rumi, and Ellen Burstyn actually knew about him. I've worked with women directors in TV and theater, but working with seven actresses, a woman director and a woman producer was really refreshing. Women are amazing. They're from another planet I don't understand. I try to admire them desperately."

"I have a woman friend who's always complaining that she's wearing bikinis in all her roles. But when I was doing *Wiseguy* and *Crime Story* I was getting stabbed or shot every week. I thought there was some sexism both ways. It's nice to finally be doing a movie where no cars are blowing up. I've been really fortunate — I did a movie called *Once Around* that's just about human beings and is a good, mature movie."

"*Courage Under Fire* was written by Patrick Duncan. At the end of his own military tour he assaulted an officer and served out his term in Leavenworth. He hates war. It's a good movie, and the Department of Defense dropped out of it and took away their helicopters because we talk about friendly fire. Ed Zwick said he wanted to give that war a face and I agree. That war was like a video game and nobody ever said how many people died.

"I've been forcing myself to stay in a wheelchair and you learn all kinds of things. It's so arduous it's unbelievable. There's a clear division between people who help the handicapped and people who are afraid to look at you. Maybe it's just a N.Y. thing, but career women run over you all the time.

FILM PROFILES



The parts keep rolling in for Tim

COMING ON STRO N G

T I M G U I N E E

It's 10 career woman to every businessman. It's scary.

"I also have a horrible horror film coming up called *Devil Deer* about a possessed deer. We hope it will be worse than an Ed Wood film."

As for his versatility, Tim says, "I think I change sometimes maybe too much. There are actors who are very much themselves, over and over again and we like them and get to know

them. I think I have a thing where frequently no one knows who the hell I am, which I think is great, because I don't have to put up with a lot of intrusion into my personal life. Don't get me wrong... I'm glad that the parts keep rolling in."

HARIETTE SUROVELL