



JENNIFER VENDITTI & DONALD CUMMING

Film: *Billy the Kid*

When Jennifer Venditti was a little girl, she would quiz her parents after they'd come home from parties about every detail—little wonder she grew up to be a documentary filmmaker. *Billy the Kid*, her first film, is a cinematic study of actor Billy Price. She met him when she cast him in Carter Smith's *Bugcrush* (see below). Her company, JVB, Inc., finds talent for photographers like Smith, Terry Richardson and David Sims, as well as for companies like Louis Vuitton, Benetton and Levi's. "I saw Billy as a hero," Venditti explains of the 15-year-old high-school student whose violent past and unique personality make his adolescence particularly challenging. "He truly believes in himself and is not willing to change who he is to be accepted by others. Most adults I know can't even do that!"

Price can be seen in *Bugcrush* with Donald Cumming, an actor and member of the band the Virgins. Cumming ended up as director of photography on Venditti's documentary. He says that the intensity of the film wasn't only emotional. "It's a very physical job," Cumming says. "Just balancing and being on the go, it's like a workout." Venditti wound up bonding with her subject while filming him going through pain. "I started to feel guilty about sticking a camera in his face or prying to get more details out of him. Let's just say I cried a lot after leaving him at the end of each day, but I laughed a lot as well." There will definitely be more film in Venditti's future; she's most interested in documentaries right now but isn't opposed to other projects. Of documentary work, she says, "I feel it's the last form of independent filmmaking, because you can fund it on your own and do not have to answer to anyone." And with Venditti's detective-like nose for sniffing out talent, there will no doubt be plenty of moving and funny footage to come. But it will be tough to top her debut subject: "Billy was a dream character. We never wanted to turn the camera off because everything he said was brilliant and honest." *For more information, visit www.jvbinc.com. ★ Mickey Boardman • Donald wears jeans by Wrangler, tank top by Levi's, jacket by Taavo, sneakers by Converse. • Jennifer wears jeans by Luella, blouse by Lanvin, shoes by Marc Jacobs.*