



THE GOTHAM 50

New York industryites reflect Big Apple's diversity, vitality in entertainment

We chose the Gotham 50 as our first *Daily Variety* Gotham Special Report because it seemed like the logical place to begin, with the spotlight on the men and women of New York showbiz who are the straws that stir the drink of the Biz. The following profiles focus on individuals in a wide range of fields and disciplines, from agenting to standup, from art film to high-tech and everything in between. The criteria for the list was simple: determining which New Yorkers will have the most impact on entertainment as we approach the millennium.

Our Big Apple readership will recognize a number of these names and faces, while several may first appear on industry radar screens. They all share the energy, determination and creativity that characterize the Gotham 50.

Steven Gaydos, Managing Editor



LYDIA DEAN PILCHER

Lydia Dean Pilcher clearly is not afraid of a little hard work. On the heels of directing and producing "Reno Finds Her Mom," which airs on HBO on Mother's Day, Pilcher, 38, is currently producing Tim Robbins' latest directorial endeavor, "The Cradle Will Rock," which focuses on the controversy surrounding the ban of Marc Blitzstein's 1937 musical drama of the same title.

"Reno" was Pilcher's first project Stateside after producing two films back-to-back in far-flung locales. In Hong Kong, she produced Wayne Wang's latest film, "Chinese Box," and in India, she produced Mira Nair's "Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love." Pilcher previously worked with Nair on "The Perez Family" and "Mississippi Masala," and will produce her next untitled project, which begins filming in Bombay next year.

While in the throes of production on Robbins' "Cradle," Pilcher has already laid the groundwork for her next project, "Jesus' Son." She will serve as exec producer on the film adaptation of Denis Johnson's book of the same name. Filming is scheduled to begin in the fall.

— Carol Diuguid