

# Los Angeles Times

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## SCREENING ROOM

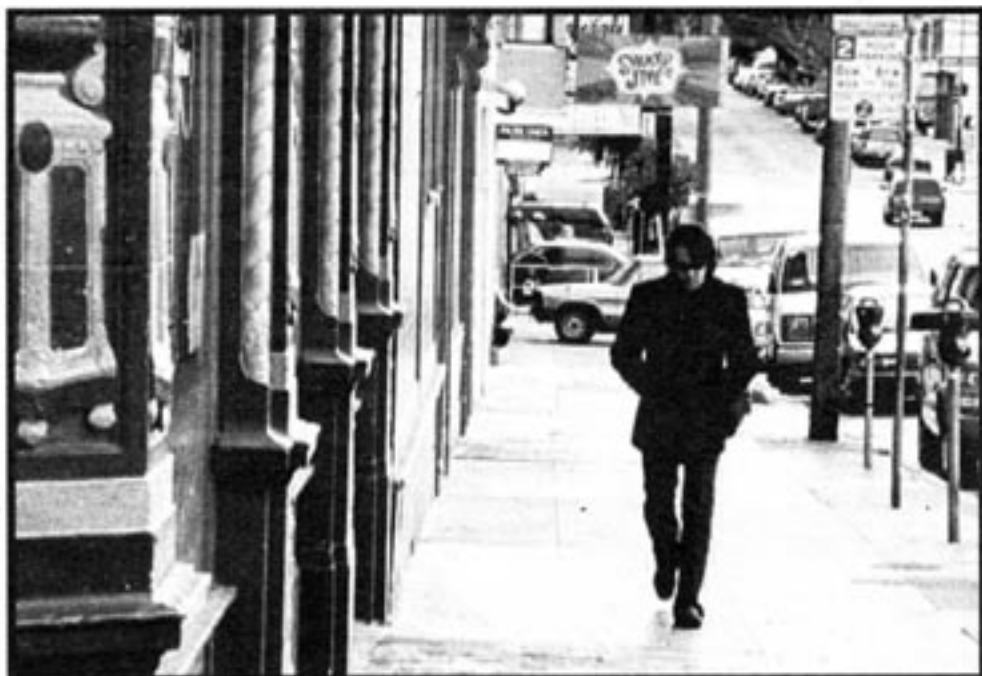
# Odyssey of drugs and denial

Poetic, stylish 'Tweek City' debuts Sunday at the Dances With Films Festival.

By KEVIN THOMAS  
Times Staff Writer

**E**RIC G. JOHNSON'S "Tweek City," which has its premiere Sunday at the Monica 4-Plex as part of the Dances With Films Festival, is a double-whammy discovery — for writer-producer-director Johnson and for his star, Giuseppe Andrews. It is a harrowing yet illuminating odyssey driven by an impassioned, confident filmmaker and a young actor of equal resources and daring.

Although not autobiographical, the film draws upon a dark period in Johnson's life, which gives it a sense of being told by someone who's been there and done that.



Dances With Films Festival

**'TWEAK CITY':** Giuseppe Andrews gives a daring performance as a charismatic drug dealer in San Francisco.

Andrews' Bill is a charismatic San Francisco drug dealer who spirals downward on crystal meth over a period of several days. He takes drugs to blot out nightmares of a troubled childhood, which only intensifies his paranoia, his denial of his half-Latino heritage and his homophobia, which may mask a latent homosexuality. Johnson and cinematographer Barry Stone employ various types of cameras, film and tape, and add stylistic flourishes that express Bill's quicksilver shifts of mood and temperament in a manner that is darkly vital and poetic.

## Screenings Dances With Films Festival

- "Tweek City": 9:30 p.m. Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Tuesday
- "The White Horse Is Dead": 9:30 p.m. Wednesday

**Where:** Monica 4-Plex,  
1332 2nd St., Santa Monica

**Info:** (323) 850-2929