

came home and knew I had to do something. I did the gathering of clothes and sending of money but I knew I was capable of doing more."

Menounous is raising funds to finance TAH's first film project. "I'm getting a portion of the proceeds from auctioning off the diamond dress I wore to the Academy Awards. We also held a big event in December where we screened this film called *Paperclips*. It was about students that decided to learn about the Holocaust. They collected millions of paperclips to represent each of the Jews lost in the Holocaust. We're going to premiere the film in August in L.A. So that's one of our babies that we've kind of been fostering."

With her insight into entertainment's influence on the public, Menounous knows this film-related approach may be the only way to really connect with her target audience. "This is probably our last chance at reaching a mass audience, especially young people. Everyone goes to the movies. So you're watching a mainstream film and you're actually going to take something home with you, and you're going to question more. As long as people leave the film and they're just talking about the issue, I think we've done plenty."

Between her charity work and her duties at *ET*, Menounous' whole life seems to have some kind of film connection. Does she ever get tired of watching movies? "Are you kidding me? I plan my life around how I'm going to get to a

“ I didn't even know what cream cheese and bagels were until I moved into college. ”

movie theater. And I don't even want to go to the free screenings. I want the real deal, at the movies with the popcorn."

Menounous is savvy enough to know that a modern approach — coupled with

her hip image — can be a valuable asset in connecting with young people. And she credits her *ET* bosses with taking a chance on a young new face.

"When I got to *ET*, I was the youngest



At just 25, Menounous is already kicking butt in Hollywood.

