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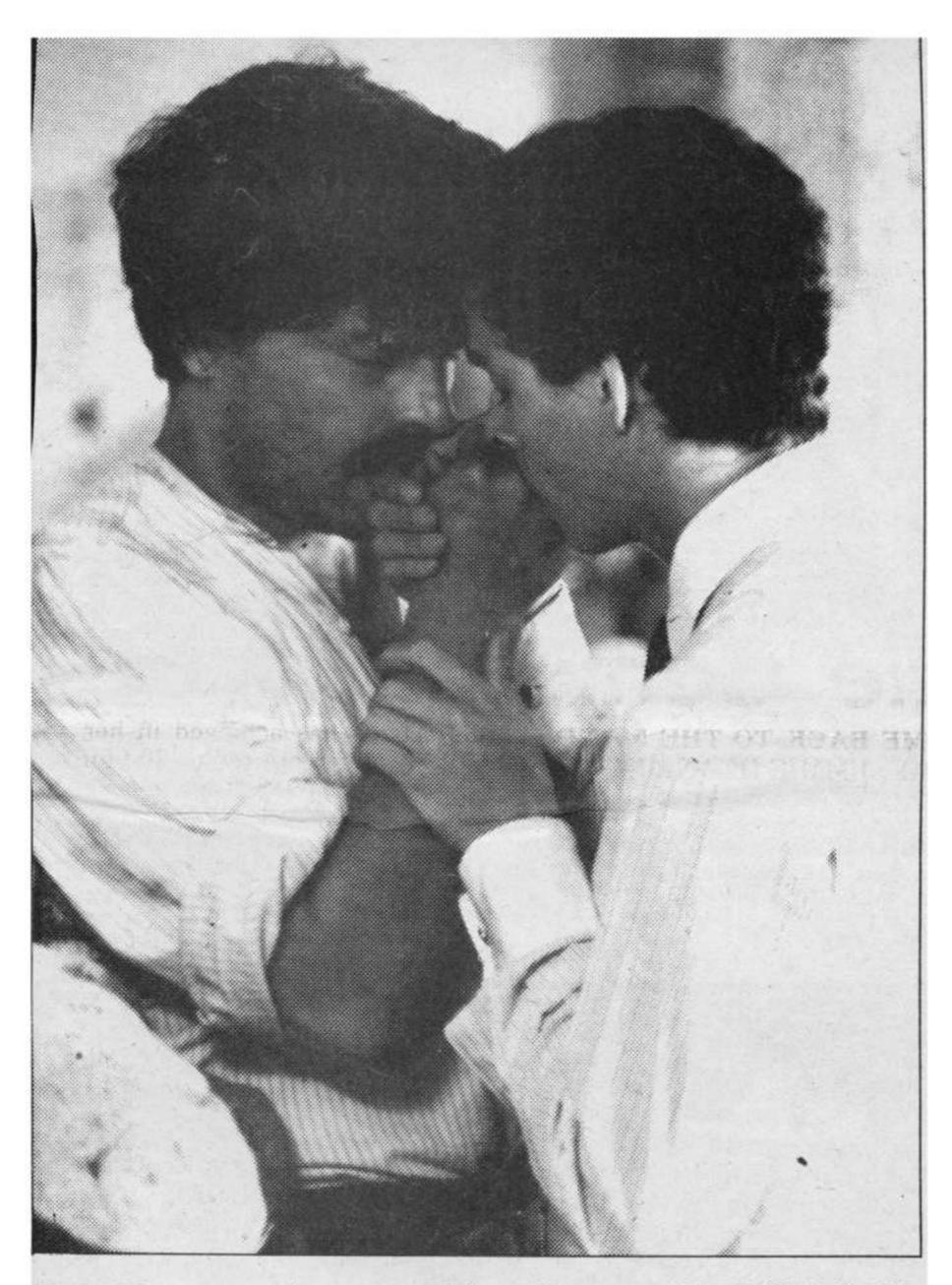
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ERNESTO, Italy's first (and so far, sole) gay film captured the 1980 Berlin Film Festival Best Actor award for Michele Placido (left) and much praise — after the gasps died down — for director/writer Salvatore Samperi. Placido is the smitten laborer whom the haughty young Ernesto (Martin Halm, right) screws on his way to the top, until an even younger violin student brings him to heel. Coming to the Lumiere, Jan 5