



Geimer: breaking her silence after 20 years

Polanski woman denies she was raped

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

THE woman in the under-age sex scandal that sent Roman Polanski into exile in Paris has said she was not raped by him, but that their encounter was not consensual.

"He wasn't forceful or mean or anything like that," Samantha Geimer said on television last night. "I just tried to get it over with. I cried after it was all over."

Mrs Geimer, who was 13 at the time of her tryst with the director of *Chinatown*, is now 33, married with two children and living in Hawaii. Her interview was the first in 20 years in which she has allowed herself to be identified, and could make or break Mr Polanski's attempt to be allowed to return to America.

Her relationship with the director, who was then 43, began when he asked her to pose for a photo session in Los Angeles, she said. After persuading her to remove her shirt during the first session he invited her to another at the home of Jack Nicholson, the actor, where he said "the light would be better".

There they drank champagne, she remembered, before he photographed her in a hot bath and joined her. That was "when I realised something was wrong", she said. She protested before having sex, she said, but did not refuse for fear of his reaction.

Mrs Geimer said she did not "feel like a victim" and had no objection to Mr Polanski returning to the US. He fled in 1977 after pleading guilty to a charge of unlawful intercourse with a minor, for which he faced up to three years' jail. As part of a plea bargain, a more serious rape charge was dropped. Mr Polanski's wife, Sharon Tate, was murdered a few years earlier by Charles Manson.

Mrs Geimer explained her eagerness to take part in the photo shoot as the impulse of a young girl bent on stardom. "In my 13-year-old mind I was thinking 'When you're a model, this is how you're expected to act'" she said.