



Photographs released by the family show the director on the set of Lolita, left, and 2001: A Space Odyssey. It was after that film that he planned his Napoleonic epic, possibly starring Jack Nicholson, top in The Shining

Kubrick's Napoleonic lost work

THE family of Stanley Kubrick has opened a treasure trove of papers, photographs and cinematic artefacts gathered by the famously secretive director at his Hertfordshire home.

Six years after his death a mass of previously unseen personal material has been turned into a book charting Kubrick's productions from *Killer's Kiss* in 1955 to *Eyes Wide Shut*, the 1999 film starring Hollywood's then leading couple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

He died six days after screening his final print of the film for executives at Warner Bros. He was 70 and had made 12 feature films in all.

Now the family plan to publish the director's screenplay, movie treatment and notes for an unmade three-hour epic on the life of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Kubrick hoped the film would enable him to eclipse Orson Welles, whose 1940 film *Citizen Kane* is commonly regarded as the best ever made.

Jack Nicholson, star of *The Shining*, one of Kubrick's best-known films, the British actors David Hemmings and Ian Holm and the Austrian film vet-

eran Oskar Werner were all considered at various stages for the title role.

Kubrick, who had just made 2001: A Space Odyssey, wrote to Audrey Hepburn, star of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, in 1969 asking if she would appear in his next film, probably as Napoleon's wife Josephine.

It was not to be. Another studio made the film *Waterloo*, featuring Rod Steiger as Napoleon. It failed at the box office and MGM, fearing

another costume drama on the same subject would do just as badly, cancelled the project.

Instead Kubrick went on to make *A Clockwork Orange*, his treatment of Anthony Burgess's dystopian novel, set in the near future, with Malcolm McDowell in the lead role.

For the past three years Alison Castle, an American editor for the German art publisher

Taschen, has been given the virtual run of Kubrick's archives at Childwickbury, his estate near St Albans, Hertfordshire.

The Stanley Kubrick Archives, the first book to result from her research, has been published in English, French, German and Japanese — in a limited edition of 5,000 copies. It costs £100.

Castle said from her home in Paris last week: "It was exciting because you could find all sorts of treasures and never knew

what was going to turn up next. "Kubrick kept his archives all over the estate: in the stables, in a cabin, the basement, in another wing of the house.

"I would come along, open the box, blow off the dust and see what was inside. For me the most exciting things were Kubrick's notes, on the scripts and notebooks with his ideas."

Last month the director was voted the fourth greatest of all time by *Empire* magazine. Number one was Steven Spiel-

berg, who filmed *AI*, another of Kubrick's unmade projects, after his death.

Kubrick, an American who moved to Britain in 1974, never forgot Napoleon. "He fascinates me. His life has been described as an epic poem of action," he said in an interview. Castle found a filing cabinet with 12 drawers containing cards detailing every known fact about Napoleon.

Jan Harlan, Kubrick's brother-in-law and executive producer of his later films, said last week: "He considered *Eyes Wide Shut*, his last film, to be his best, but Napoleon would have been an amazing film."