

Students get filmmaking direction from pros

BY VINCE DIXON
Staff Reporter

"Lights, camera, action" — three words that the 14 high school students participating in the Summer Production Mentorship Program will hear over and over again this week.

The teens, juniors or seniors at

the Chicago Vocational Career Academy, are spending four hours a day in production for the short film "Scream at Me." Filming is taking place near the school, which is at 2100 E. 87th St.

The mentorship, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools' Education to Careers program, is a six-week paid workshop formed to in-

crease diversity and minority interest in the film industry.

The workshop, designed by the national nonprofit organization Independent Feature Project, allows filmmakers and industry professionals to work with selected students in creating and producing a short film.

Due to the "sophistication" of

the script, what was supposed to be a five-minute short now is 15 minutes long. "There's something different about this script," says John Mossman, the film's Independent Feature Project producer. "It has a great amount of depth."

Derrek Jones, 17, wrote the screenplay as part of academy's radio/TV majors class. The script, chosen from among several submissions, has undergone pre-production and now is ready to be filmed.

The students are working closely with Mossman and Project assistant producer Hannah Roth from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. this week, earning \$6 an hour. Set for release in three weeks, the film focuses on an inner-city teenager torn between remaining with his often discouraging friends or following a brighter path.

The program introduces students to the varied careers available in the highly competitive film industry. Each of the program's participants have been given a specific task to carry out during production. Mossman says many of the students — the group includes several hired to follow the making of the film for an upcoming documentary — often prefer to stay late to finish assignments.

"With [14] students, the challenge is making sure everyone is learning and that everyone is having a great experience," says Project Executive Director Elizabeth Donius. "The kids have to choose to do this. They get paid \$6 an hour, but it's still their summer."

Local professional actors chosen



Assistant director and location manager Jheri Johnson, a junior at Chicago Vocational Career Academy, prepares to scout locations with Bob Hudgins (right), IFFP-Chicago president.

by the team also have worked closely with the crew.

Last year, the program was held at Curie High school. The script was not written by the students and shooting lasted only two days. Now in its second year, the Summer Production Mentorship Program has been increased to five days, Donius says, adding that her organization is looking forward to expanding the workshop to more Chicago high schools.

After post-production, each student will receive a DVD version of the film that also will include the documentary. The filmmakers plan to enter several film festivals and offer a "Scream at Me" summer premiere screening on Aug. 19. For now, though, the group is focusing on finishing the film.

"Whether it will be good or bad or brilliant is up to them," says Mossman. "Everybody has a voice, and this is theirs."

Local Theatre Directory

DOWNTOWN

IMAX THEATRE
500 GRAND AVE. (312) 995-2026
ADVANCE TICKETS AT WWW.IMAX.COM/CHICAGO

SHARKS 3D IMAX (NR) 10:00 1:15 5:00
BATMAN BEGINS THE MOVIE (PG-13) 8:45

THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED (NR) (PG) 11:00 2:30 6:15
IMAXES FOR 2/28/05 6:30

NEAR NORTH

CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA
2828 North Clark at Diversity • (773) 309-4949

HAPPY ENDINGS (R) (1:30, 4:20) 7:10, 9:50
THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED (NR) (2:40, 5:10) 7:40, 10:00
ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW (R) (3:00, 5:20) 7:30, 9:40
LILA SAYS (NR) (2:50, 4:50) 7:15, 9:20
MURDERBALL (R) (5:00, 5:00) 7:20, 9:30
MAD HOT BALLROOM (PG) (2:10, 4:30) 6:50
ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM (NR) 9:10
YES (R) (2:20, 4:40) 7:00, 9:00

NORTH

DAVIS 7.50 AFTER 9.00
4614 N. Lincoln Ave. • (773) 784-0193

THE ISLAND (PG13) 1:40-4:20 7:00-9:40
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG) 12:10-2:30 4:50-7:30 9:40
WEDDING CRASHERS (R) 12:10-2:30 4:50-7:30 9:40
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG13) 12:00-2:45 7:20-9:45
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ANTZ (PG) 10AM

NORTHWEST

LOGAN MILK AT KEDZIE (AMPLE PARKING AT 773) 282-0627 EMMETT ST. CITY LOT
HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (PG) / CINDERELLA MAN (PG13)
MADAGASCAR (PG) / SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL (PG)
★ No Child Under 6 After 6 PM To (R) Films

SUBURBAN

NORTH

HIGHLAND PARK 432-54.50 til 6 & Srs. 3:00-7:00 after

highland park 432-54.50 til 6 & Srs. 3:00-7:00 after

CRASH (4:30) 7:00-9:15
LADIES IN LAVENDER (4:45) 7:15-9:15
PAPER CLIPS (5:00) 7:30-9:15
CINDERELLA MAN (4:45) 7:45

RENAISSANCE PLACE CINEMA
1830 Second St. • Highland Park • (847) 328-7282

HAPPY ENDINGS (R) (12:15, 3:00, 6:40) 8:20
ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW (R) (1:30, 4:00) 6:20, 8:40
MAD HOT BALLROOM (PG) (12:30, 2:30, 5:30) 8:00
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (G) (12:20, 2:20, 4:20) 6:00, 8:30
THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED (NR) (12:30, 3:20, 5:50) 8:10
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WILMETTE

WILMETTE \$5.50 TO 3:45PM 847-251-7411
COLOSSAL SENSATION 1:30-3:45-6:00-8:15
MAD HOT BALLROOM 1:00-1:15-5:30-7:45

PARK RIDGE

PICKWICK TODAY & MON. 10:00 MOVIES 11:00 MOVIES
8:47-10:00 8:47-10:00 8:47-10:00 8:47-10:00
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG13) 1:00 3:30 6:00
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG13) 4:30 7:00-9:15
MADAGASCAR (PG) 4:00
BEWITCHED (PG13) 6:30-8:45
HERBIE FULLY LOADED (G) 4:30-6:30-8:30

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Evans-ton Century 12 (11-47) 720-1025
The Island (PG-13) (11-47) 720-1025
HUSTLE & FLOW (R) (11-35-4:15) 7:10-9:55
THE DEVIL'S REJECTS (R) (12-15-3-30) 8:10-30
BAD NEWS BEARS (PG-13) (11-10-2-45) 7:35-10:05
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG) (11-11-45-12:30-1:45-2:30-3:15-4:20-6:05-6) 7:45-8:45-9:45
WEDDING CRASHERS (R) (11-10-5-12:25-1:40-3:30-4:25) 6:30-7:15-9:30-10:15
FANTASTIC FOUR (PG-13) (11-30-2-15-4:45) 7:30-10
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG-13) (11-40-2:20-5) 7:40-10:20
BATMAN BEGINS (PG-13) (12-45-3:45) 7:05-10:10
DARK WATER (PG-13) 10:30 P.M.

CineArts @ Evanston (11-45) A.M.
847-492-0123 or 1-800-Fandango-9912

THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED (NR) Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian (12-2:30-4:45) 7:45-10:20
ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW (R) (12:30-2:40-5) 7:30-10:10
CRASH (R) (2:50-5:30) 8:10-30

Both theaters at same location • 1715 Maple Ave. Adjacent to Metra & El • Davis St. Station
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NORTH

GLENVIEW-SKOKIE

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THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED (NR) Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian (12-2:30-4:45) 7:45-10:20
ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW (R) (12:30-2:40-5) 7:30-10:10
CRASH (R) (2:50-5:30) 8:10-30

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● RACING STRIPES (PG) 10:00 AM
BAD NEWS BEARS (PG13) 12:40, 14:00, 7:20, 9:50
THE ISLAND (PG13) 12:40, 14:00, 7:20, 9:50
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG) 1:00, 1:30, 3:50, 6:30, 7:30, 9:50, 10:10
WEDDING CRASHERS (R) 1:20, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20
FANTASTIC FOUR (PG13) 1:30, 14:50, 7:50, 10:30
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (LA MARCHE DE L'EMPEREUR) (G) 1:30, 2:30, 14:00, 6:30, 9:30
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG13) 1:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:50
HERBIE FULLY LOADED (G) 12:00, 2:10
BATMAN BEGINS (PG13) 12:30, 7:30, 10:30
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG13) 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 9:30

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● BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE (PG) 10:00 AM
BAD NEWS BEARS (PG13) 11:00, 12:50, 1:45, 3:35, 14:05, 6:05, 7:15, 9:10, 9:25
THE DEVIL'S REJECTS (R) (11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20)
HUSTLE & FLOW (R) (12:40, 1:40, 4:55, 8:45)
THE ISLAND (PG13) 12:40, 1:40, 3:20, 4:50, 6:40, 7:30, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG) 10:55, 12:00, 12:30, 1:30, 1:45, 3:30, 4:15, 7:30, 9:20, 10:15
WEDDING CRASHERS (R) (11:25, 12:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:35, 4:15, 5:05, 6:50, 7:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:30)
DARK WATER (PG13) (12:30, 7:30, 10:30)
FANTASTIC FOUR (PG13) (11:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20)
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (LA MARCHE DE L'EMPEREUR) (G) (11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00)
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG13) (1:05, 3:00, 7:25, 10:25)
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG13) (1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00)
BATMAN BEGINS (PG13) (1:30, 4:45, 10:05)
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG13) (12:15, 1:35, 4:35, 9:40)
MADAGASCAR (PG) (11:30, 1:30)

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THE ISLAND (PG-13) (11-12-30-2-3-45-6:15) 7:45-10:15
THE DEVIL'S REJECTS (R) (12-2-40-5:10) 7:50-10:25
BAD NEWS BEARS (PG-13) (11-20-1:55-4:30) 7:15-9:55
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (G) (11-30-1:35-3:40-5:45) 8-10:05
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG) (11-15-12:10-1:05-2-3-3:55-4:50-5:50) 6:45-7:40-8:35-9:35-10:30
WEDDING CRASHERS (R) (11-10-12-40-1:50-3:20-4:40-5) 7:25-8:40-10:10
FANTASTIC FOUR (PG-13) (12-25-2:55-5:25) 7:55-10:20
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG-13) (11:05-1:40-4:15) 7:05-9:45
BATMAN BEGINS (PG-13) (12-45-4) 7:10-10:15
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG-13) (11-25-2:15-5) 7:45-10:35
MADAGASCAR (PG) (11-45) 7:45
CINDERELLA MAN (PG-13) (4:10) 7:20-10:25
CRASH (R) (11:35-2:35-5:05) 7:35-10

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SOUTHWEST

WOODRIDGE

HOLLYWOOD BLVD.
A Cinema, Bar & Eatery (630) 427-1880
1001 W. 75th St. Admission \$8

THE ISLAND (PG13) 4:30-7:00-9:15
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (PG) 4:30-6:45-9:00
WEDDING CRASHERS (R) 4:30-7:00-9:15
FANTASTIC FOUR (PG13) 4:30-7:00-9:10
WAR OF THE WORLDS (PG13) 4:00-6:45-9:10
BATMAN BEGINS (PG13) 4:00-6:45-9:15
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STAR WARS EPISODE III (PG13) 2:20 6:30 9:20
UNLEASHED (R) 2:30 4:50 7:25 9:45
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG13) 1:30 4:00 7:00 9:15
CRASH (R) 1:50 4:40 7:20 9:25
MR. & MRS. SMITH (PG13) 2:15 4:30 7:30 9:50

SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PARTS (PG13) 1:40 4:20 7:10 9:30
THE PERFECT MAN (PG) 1:45 4:15 7:15 9:10
MONSTER-IN-LAW (PG13) 2:00 4:10 6:45 9:00

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