IMAGINE - WWW: WORKS, WRINKLES, WRAPS

WWW STANDS FOR WORKS (IN PROGRESS), WRINKLES OR WHOOPS (WHENEVER THEY HAPPEN), AND WRAPS (COMPLETED FILMS AND PROJECTS OF ANY KIND). YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED. EMAILTO: PUBLISHER@IMAGINENEWS.COM.

WORKS

Michael and Shawn Rasmussen's THE WARD Scheduled to Start in May



Michael and Shawn Rasmussen, Harvard Square Scriptwriters Alums' Screenplay, THE WARD, goes into production in May produced by Echo Lake and A Bigger Boat starring Amber Heard, Photo courtesy of Shawn Rasmussen.

THEWARD written by Michael and Shawn Rasmussen is scheduled to go into production in May starring Amber Heard (ALLTHE BOYS LOVE MANDY LANE, THE PINEAPPLE EXPRESS and the Showtime series "Californification"). The Rasmussen brothers are former members of Harvard Square Scriptwriters. Their previous film LONG DISTANCE was filmed in an abandoned mental hospital in Boston's Longwood Medical area. They believe they've come a long way since their HSSW days, but are always very grateful for them.

The legendary John Carpenter (HALLOW-EEN,THE FOG, IN THE MOUTH OF MAD-NESS,THE THING) will direct. Financing and producing alongside Echo Lake will be Peter Block and his recently launched company A Bigger Boat.

Shawn Rasmussen told IMAGINE that THE WARD was optioned by Echo Lake a couple of years ago, and Michael and I have had a great time working with them through the development process. The whole team at Echo Lake, Deug Mankoff, Mike Marcus, Andy spaulding and Jessica Stamen, as well as apper producer Peter Block, and his company A fligger Boat have been wonderful collaborators.

"As you can imagine, working with a legend like John Carpenter was a career defining experience. He's such a talented filmmaker. His notes and insights brought so much to our final screenplay," Shawn said.

The Ward is an intense psychological thriller set in a mental institution where a young woman, Kristen (played by Heard) is haunted by a mysterious and deadly ghost. As danger creeps closer, she comes to realize that this ghost might be darker than she could have imagined.

"THEWARD is the kind of script that I've been looking for: a complex, visceral story, full of suspense and scares," said Carpenter: "I am especially pleased to be working with Amber because I know she will create a powerful central performance." The Ward" is being produced by Doug Mankoff, Mike Marcus and Andy Spaulding of Echo Lake Entertainment, which recently wrapped production on "The Joneses", costarring Heard.

"Working with John Carpenter on "The Ward" is a dream come true; fans everywhere, me included, have been waiting for just this kind of thriller from him. It's great to be able to tackle it with the Echo Lake gang whose work I've also admired for years," said Block.

Writers Michael and Shawn Rasmussen are repped by Larchmont Literary Agency.

Echo Lake has added more commercial fare such as THE WARD and THE JONESES to its long track record of award winning art house films including titles like TSOTSI, WATER, and AWAY FROM HER. "We are excited to bring our focus on quality to bigger, more mainstream films" says Doug Mankoff, President of Echo Lake. "We saw firsthand what a great job Amber did on "The Joneses" and we knew that she and John Carpenter would make a perfect combination for THE WARD.

FilmNation, the sales company started by Glen Basner, began international sales on the film at the Berlin Film Market.

Film/Video Production Workshop Coming to Providence, RI

Tom Kane is bringing a Four Day Film/Video Workshop to Providence, RI on February 26, 27, 28, and March I.Tom has had a long and distinguished career in the Film and Television industry. As a Producer, Production Manager, and Assistant Director, his clients have included Twentieth Century Fox, Miramax Films, Columbia Pictures, Warner Bros., ABC Motion Pictures, Universal Pictures, Turner Network Television, CBS, NBC, ABC, and Hallmark Entertainment.

Kane's film credits include: PRIZZI'S, RAGING BULL, KRAMER VS KRAMER, THE FLA-MINGO KID, TAXI DRIVER, THE STEPFORD WIVES, and CROSSFIRE TRAIL.

Since 1984, Tom has taught Film and Video production to hundreds of students from around the world. He created "The Assistant Director & Unit Production Manager Workshop" for The Maine Media Workshops in Rockport, Maine, where he has instructed for 13 years.

His Workshop will teach you how to successfully plan, organize and manage a film or video production. You will break down a feature script, create a shooting schedule, production board, and day-out-of-days. You also go on a location scout to learn the professional approach to detail for each location. This workshop is ideal for aspiring producers, production managers, assistant directors, screenwriters, actors, and anyone wishing to explore a career in film and video production.

The workshop will be held at the Brooklyn Coffee & Teahouse, 209 Douglas Avenue in Providence. The four-day workshop is \$500. Beginners are welcome. Students receive a 50% discount (plus \$25 materials fee). For more information and to register visit www. filmtyworkshops.com.



Tom Kane is bringing a Four Day Film/Video Workshop to Providence, RI. He has had a long and distinguished career in the Film and Television industry as a Producer, Production Manager, and Assistant Director Photo courtesy of Tom Kane.

WRINKLES

Boston Casting Hosts Screenwriting Master Class with Academy Award Winner Ernest Thompson

This is a new wrinkle. How much do actors want really good parts? Enough for a casting company to organize a Screenwriting Master Class that's how much!

Academy Award winning screenwriter Ernest Thompson will be conducting a one day Screenwriting Master Class on Saturday, March 14 and again on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at the InterContinental Hotel in Boston. Hosted by Boston Casting, Mr. Thompson's Master Class will analyze the art of screenwriting from the writer, actor and director's point of view.

During each day-long session, attendees will learn the process of successful screenwriting while focusing on sharpening their writing skills. "Everyone should come to the class prepared to work," said Thompson." I am asking each participant to submit a scene of no more than three pages for discussion and performance. We will have actors present to work on specific scenes so the writers can see their places realized. This is not a class for beginners. I'm looking for aspiring screenwriters who want to hone their craft and take their work to the next level."

An accomplished, actor, director and writer, Mr.Thompson received the Academy Award, the Golden Globe and the Writers Guild Award for his screenplay ON GOLDEN POND. He has written over 25 screenplays and nearly as many plays in his 40-year career. He has directed some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry, including Shirley MacLaine, Liza Minnelli, Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Robert Downey Jr., Kiefer Sutherland and Winona Ryder, Currently Mr. Thompson is in pre-production on the film ELYSIAN FARM, which will be shot in New England later this year.

Choose the day you wish to attend and register by calling 617 254-1001 $\times 3$ to reserve a spot. The classes run from $10\,\mathrm{AM} - 3\,\mathrm{PM}$ and the cost is \$150. Each attendee must submit a scene from a finished screenplay or a work-in-progress one week prior to the class. There will be a break for lunch during which everyone is on-their-own.

WRAPS

There's a Screen, a Projector, Chairs, Popcorn, and People, It's CDIABU Student Filmmaker Movie Madness Marathon and It Was Great

It's been a long time coming but the first annual CDIABU Student Filmmaker Movie Madness Marathon has finally become, for lack of a better word, necessary. Necessary because it's the only way to show, in one sitting, the full scope of varied, interesting, and in some cases, outstanding films. Necessary because it offers outsiders, current students, alum, and everyone's friends and family the chance to convene under one roof in one moment to view and applaud (or take exception to) the collection of films to be shown. But perhaps, just as importantly, the Marathon might begin to offer some ideas about a CDIA style. What's undeniable is that there was a lot of talent up there on the screen in Studio C at CDIABU Waltham's campus.

On January 30th CDIABU Movie Madness Marathon was a resounding success. The event was attended by CDIA film alum, current students, film fans, and even one or two "off the street" passersby. The morning began with Federico Muchnik presenting films made during the first couple of years of the program's existence - titles like STILL ON HER KEEL and GLIMPSE were shown to much acclaim. In the afternoon, more recent films were shown, including HOBO POOL and 1382 DAYS. Filmmakers honored included Jean Michel Dilone, lan Ross, Jessica Saccardo, Julie Tremblay, Mike Ouellette, and Ruben Calderon. Everyone had a wonderful time - past students got to meet current students and new friendships were certainly forged. They can't wait to do it again next year!



This still is from Jean Michel Dilone's excellent "1382 DAYS - The True Story of Jean Michel Dilone." The film tells the story of Jean Michel (a CDIA film student), his unjust imprisonment in Haiti's jalls, his subsequent release, his journey to Boston, and his dream to tell his story to the world. Photo courtesy of CDIABU.