

ATVF students tell their own tale in *Two Cities*

JENNIFER HORN
SHERIDAN NEWS

For film students at Sheridan College, full nights of sleep and three-hour classes during the week have become distant memories since they started filming their final projects last week.

More than a dozen Advanced Television and Film students crammed into a studio on Trafalgar Campus this past weekend to begin shooting *Two Cities* – a 10-minute film that portrays the lives of four very different individuals as they come together after an aid worker is kidnapped in Darfur.

The process of preparing and producing a student film can be a long, complicated and stressful routine. Students assemble a team of key players that consists of producer, director, writer, editor, director of photography and production designer. Pre-production begins and the film's budgets as well as legal issues are reviewed. Sheridan College provides the ATVF students with all the camera and lighting equipment they need to create their visions.

The films usually require additional funding for insurance, extra equipment, wardrobe, food, etc. Some of the students have raised funds to put into production and therefore receive rights to ownership and distribution of the film. Sheridan offers a special needs bursary to those who require extra funding for their films.

"I'm one of those responsible for funding my final project. If the film doesn't get made, then I don't pass the course. So, we need to put in extra to make a good film," said Kurt Ogilvie, directing consultant of *Two Cities* and producer of another ATVF film, *Abra Cadaver*. "If we were to send our final project to a film festival and won first place, we could easily make back the money we put in."

The ATVF students have the difficult task of casting actors and



ATVF student Josh Heisi prepares for a scene with *Two Cities* actor Jemini Archer at Sheridan's Trafalgar Campus.

actresses for their films. While some have used the services of a casting director, Ogilvie opted to take the less expensive, although tiresome route of posting auditions on Internet websites.

A large number of the actors are from the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio artists (ACTRA) and through a contract they have with Sheridan students are able to hire them at little or no cost.

Ogilvie says that the ACTRA actors are more than willing to work on student films, as they want more for their demo reels, experience and a chance to network.

Time constraints resulted in a short pre-production period for the student's films. Developing the script and different screen shots started as soon as the sec-

ond semester began. "We're only in school for, like, eight months and we have three main projects to work on," said David Hvizdos, production designer of *Abra Cadaver*. "Even with the time constraints, it has been one of the better organized films that I have worked on. I feel that there has been a good dialogue between all of our key players and that is really essential in a movie."

When asked about a possible teachers strike during filming, Ogilvie and Hvizdos showed little concern.

"We've heard that it's happened before and the students pretty much just continue to shoot," said Ogilvie. "It's just unfortunate that the faculty will be on the picket lines instead of giving us input."



ATVF students set up a camera on a dolly for *Two Cities* at the Student Advice Centre on Sheridan's Trafalgar Campus.

Ride for the Cure supports Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

DAVE McASKILE
SHERIDAN NEWS

Some people care little for the plight of others, however this does not seem to be the case at Sheridan, as once again a faculty is stepping up to raise money for a good cause. The Human Resources Interscholastic Committee (HRIC) is organizing a "Ride for the Cure" in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Taking place during the week of Feb. 15, members of the HRIC will be taking turns riding a stationary bike. They will be riding 10 hours a day, in one-hour shifts, for 4 days.

On Tuesday and Friday, they will be setting up the bike at Grassroots, and on the Wednesday and Thursday they will be set up at different tables in the B-wing.

Students from the aesthetics program will also be volunteering

their time, and will have a table set up where they will be offering manicures and hand massages for a small fee.

All proceeds will go to the CBCF.

"We wanted to do our share and raise awareness on the disease and at the same time raise money to help with the research to find a cure," said Jo-Ann Mandau, the organizer of the event. "There are so many people who have been affected by breast cancer, whether they have experienced it first hand, or know a loved one who has," said Mandau.

Mandau also reminds us that breast cancer isn't limited to women. "About 1 per cent of the victims are male, such as Richard Roundtree (actor) and Peter Criss (former Kiss drummer)," said Mandau.



"We wanted to raise awareness on the disease and at the same time raise money to help the research to find a cure."

"Last year, our goal was to raise \$1,000 in pledges," said Mandau. "We are hoping to beat our total raised from last year."

There will be boxes next to the bikes for donations. Alternatively anyone wishing to make a donation can e-mail joann.mandau@sheridan.on.ca to do so.

Donations of \$20 or more will automatically receive a tax receipt.

Lockdown drills were 'a success'

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It was also to show new students Sheridan's lockdown policies and procedures, to demonstrate what would happen in a lockdown or emergency situation.

Education is also the key to the success of SIREN and future lockdown drills. E-mails were sent to all staff to review with students in class. Participation and awareness is crucial to the success of SIREN and the safety of everyone on campus, said Van Cedar.

"We would give ourselves about a 95 per cent compliance rate. Unfortunately we still had some students and staff who didn't follow the procedures," said Van Cedar.

"So it's going to be an ongoing educational piece for the team."

Sheridan created a survey for feedback on the drill and sent it out. Once feedback is returned, the school will take action to solve any problems identified.

"We only have maybe 20 observers and typically were in the hallways. We want to find out from the people that were in the actual rooms," said Van Cedar. "That's critical to making Sheridan a safe environment."

Van Cedar states that next time, no one may know it's coming. Preparation is the key.

"I think we may not give notice. It might be a surprise drill. That way we can really see the reaction," Van Cedar said.

"Community safety at Sheridan is everyone's responsibility. As a team we can make Sheridan as safe a place as possible."