

Film Club to write, produce, direct and film movie

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FEATURES EDITOR

The UNCW Film Group is presently working on a short film tentatively titled "The Lives and Deaths of Clowns." The film will be written, directed, filmed and produced entirely by students.

"It's a farce, or a black comedy, about clowns who go into occupational therapy," Film Group President Daniel Cloud said.

The group recently received \$687 from the Student Government Association to buy film stock, which Cloud said "probably won't be enough for us, because our movie is going to be a little more complicated than when we initially made the proposal."

Instead of using the SGA money for film stock for the current project, Cloud said they will go ahead and buy stock for the group's next project and film "The Lives and Deaths of Clowns" on digital video. "That's far cheaper," he said. "It's like \$20 for a DV tape. We'll either rent the equipment or we may be able to borrow it from the university."

The quality of digital video is comparable to that of a television broadcast. However, students will not be able to get

the experience of working with the kind of cameras professional filmmakers use. Cloud said that by using the DV, students will miss out on "the fun and stress of working with film. You can't just rewind and rewrite film. You pay for your mistakes."

The script, written by freshman Cory Howard, is 27 pages long, which translates into about a 30-minute movie. Cloud said that in the future, he would like the group to make shorter films, only about 5-10 minutes long.

The major positions for the film were awarded based on experience. Vice-President Evan Vetter will direct the film because he has had hands-on experience in filmmaking. He operated a camera on a documentary last fall and worked as a production assistant on the set of "Summer Catch" last year. He has never directed before, and said he is a little nervous about taking on all the responsibility a director must shoulder.

"I've had plenty of classes, so I've had some experience from a theoretical standpoint," Vetter said. "I've worked on movies, so I've been able to watch directors...but none of that is a substitute for real experience."

A film takes hard work from many

different people, all of whom have a stake in the film. Vetter said that if the ultimate product "is something that's not worthy of their effort, then I'm not doing my job."

Part of the group's problem is finding the money with which to produce their films. They are soliciting local businesses to underwrite the movie and Cloud is trying to decide how they will raise funds in the future. He said they may hold a film festival, but that the most important thing is to get this film made.

"We need to have a product to sell to get money, but we need money to make a product," he said.

Once the film is made, they can enter it into independent film competitions or submit it to Atom Films, a company that markets independent short films over the Internet and pays the creators for the film's use.

In the future, Cloud would like the Film Group to join the Student Media Board. The group would then receive funds through the Media Board rather than the SGA. In order to get on the board, the group must show that it can be financially self-supporting and well-organized. They have approximately two years to work on getting a position

on the board.

"When it gets down to the nuts and bolts the board is interested in seeing a business plan and a product," Student Media Coordinator Bill DiNome said. "We'd like to see them succeed but whether they do or not is entirely up to them."

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The group is having just as much fun as the audience, which is obvious as they make jokes between songs and eagerly invite participants to the stage.

The last event in the Arts and Action series will be an energetic performance from Leahy, an Irish group of nine brothers and sisters. On March 31, Leahy will bring folk music and step-dancing from Celtic, Canadian and French Canadian influences, to Kenan Auditorium at 4 and 8 p.m. The nationally known group that has toured with Shania Twain and the Chieftains will finish off the semester with promises of a lively

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performance. "Dance is a language of the world. It's a way to convey meaning not used before," according to Davis. She is known as the "Mother of Modern Dance" by the dance world.

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