

Where's the story?

Kentucker Audley explains to Anne Cunningham O'Neill

As we set up for the cover shoot, I had the opportunity to talk to Kentucker Audley for a moment or two. He explained his films are really about him and his life. They deal with relationships between children and parents, friends and lovers, and the focus is always on communication – or better yet miscommunication. > **continued on pg.11**



Photo by Bob Bayne

Memphis is world famous for the music created here. The early rock and roll emanating from Sun Studios and later the soul music from Stax and Hi Records, owe much to the synergy that existed among artists and producers who lived and worked here.

What may be less well known is that today this same kind of creative fire is burning brightly among a diverse group of talented and highly motivated Memphis artists who are collaborating to produce independent films (indies). While you have doubtless heard of our own, now very famous Craig Brewer (“Hustle & Flow”) and his award-winning films, there are many other names to watch out for in our local community of filmmakers and whose wider fame is likely just around the corner.

It is a fact that new technology, including digital cameras and editing software, has greatly reduced the cost of movie making. It’s no longer necessary to buy film stock and incur processing costs. Editing is done on a Mac or PC. The final film is burned to a DVD, to be submitted to film festivals and sold on the Internet. Online technologies like YouTube provide the potential for film audiences in the thousands.

As a result, indie films are big and getting bigger, and there are increasing opportunities to showcase these films in a number of festivals around the world. For example, while everyone has heard of the famous Sundance festival in Park City, Utah, the average person may not have heard of the “Slamdance” festival, also held in Park City. Holding its 14th annual gathering this month, this festival is billed as “more filmmaker friendly” than its famous rival. It calls itself the “vital alternative” to Sundance, and there are different selection criteria for the films it shows. You will read below in fact that the young filmmaker on our cover, Kentucker Audley – whose real name is Andrew Nenninger – has screened a film at Slamdance.

Narratives and documentaries, shorts and feature length, animation and experimental – Memphis filmmakers are producing good movies that are attracting increasingly enthusiastic audiences. The collaboration of talent and the cross-pollination of ideas have created an environment where filmmakers learn from each other. For example, director Rod Pitts (“What Goes Around”) worked as cinematographer on DeAara Lewis’s movie “Tricks.” Filmmaker John Pickle (“Electric Ninja Acid Test”) is an actor in a number of local films. Craig Brewer has himself mentored and produced work by many local filmmakers.

Local films often feature soundtracks created by Memphis musicians and songwriters. Some groups have been formed specifically for the purpose of collaboration. True Story Pictures (www.truestorypictures.org)