

Kelowna producer filming his first full-length movie

By GLENNA TURNBULL

"One thing you learn when you're a producer for the first time is that anything that could go wrong will go wrong, and that you're never going to stay on schedule," said Trevor Trombley.

Trombley is currently working on his first feature length film, *Mortal Remains*, which he describes as a supernatural thriller, along the lines of *The Shining*, or Clint Eastwood's *Mystic River*.

"I wanted to make a story based on something that happened when I was growing up in Quesnel," he said.

"I had a friend who was raped and murdered — it was pretty horrible stuff — and I always had an idea of what might have happened, so I came up with this story based on those ideas, amalgamating things from my childhood into the story."

It's the story of a guy who is in love with a girl that is also his best friend. She started dating an older guy who sells drugs and later discovers her boyfriend in the bathroom with another girl. The friend then offers to drive her home.

"That's the last time people see her alive, leaving the party with him, so the best friend becomes a suspect and nobody knows what really happened to her."

Trombley wrote the script along with production partner Dan Zachary.

"I tend to write a lot from personal experiences. Dan comes from a very commercial writing background and does really well with improv and comedy and knows how to get audience reaction, so it's a nice marriage between our two styles."

He first got bitten by the film bug while taking a fine arts course at Okanagan University College in 1999. It opened his eyes to the world of film, but until now, he has only created short films and always felt something was missing.

"I didn't realize back then that there was such a difference between an actual film camera and a digital," he admitted, so for this film, he's used an adapter which recreates the same depth of field needed to provide the film look.

"It creates the same end results as a film camera and at the same time is a lot cheaper than renting a great big panavision, which is about \$2,000 a day."

Still, he had to go to Vancouver to rent the lighting needed for the outdoor shots filmed up in Myra Canyon.

"I'd like to get to the point where there was a rental equipment house here in town where you could get the right kind of equipment."

Like the lighting, most of the cast came from Vancouver as well. However, local actor Liam Caswell, who is also working on another film being shot here called *Toyfa*, has one of the main roles.

Trombley is hoping the film will be completed by the end of next summer.

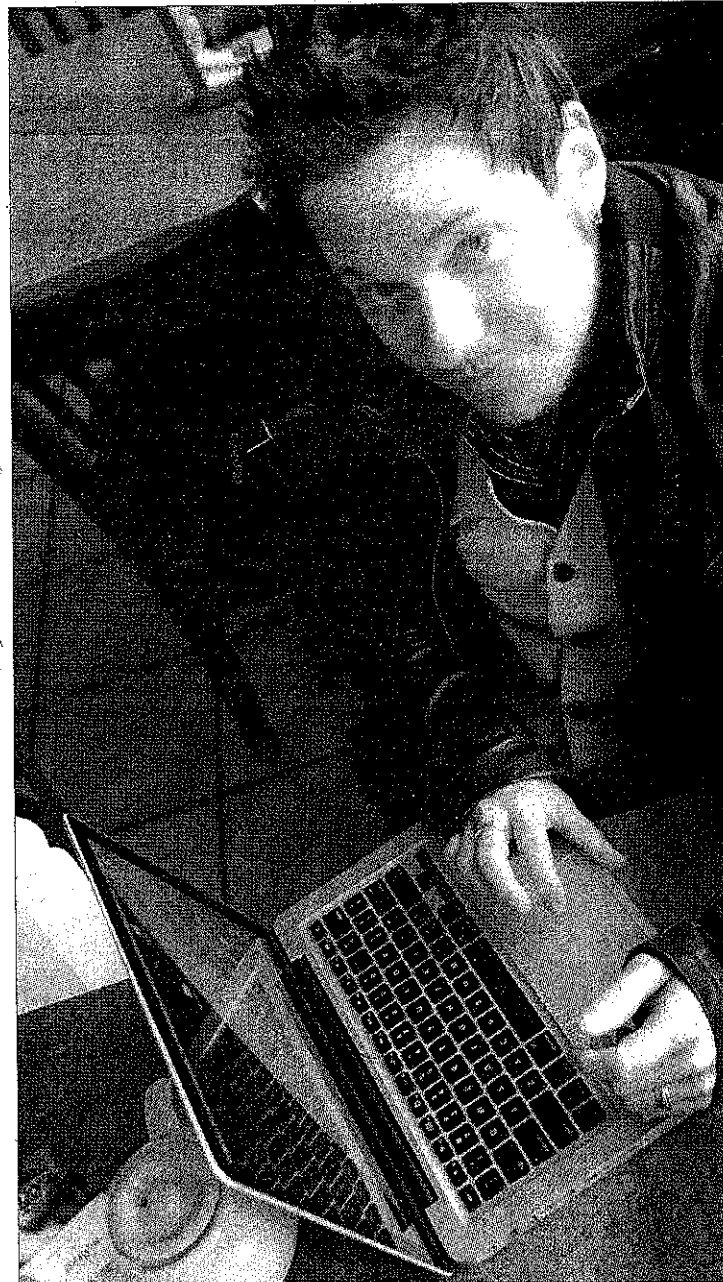
"We're just filming increments as the money comes to us, plus we need the weather to get warmer before we can finish the film. Right now, we're filming all the flashback scenes and once all those are logged, we can go on to the present-day scenes, which is the meat of the story."

Having just finished a week's worth of filming, he reflected, "I find filmmaking is almost like a relationship — a very bad relationship. You hate each other sometimes and you're always fighting, but there's so much love involved and when it's done and you're not filming anymore, you miss it so much. You miss the drama of it."

Trombley has written several scripts before that have never made it to film. "Writing scripts is great but you get to the point where you want to see it become a movie."

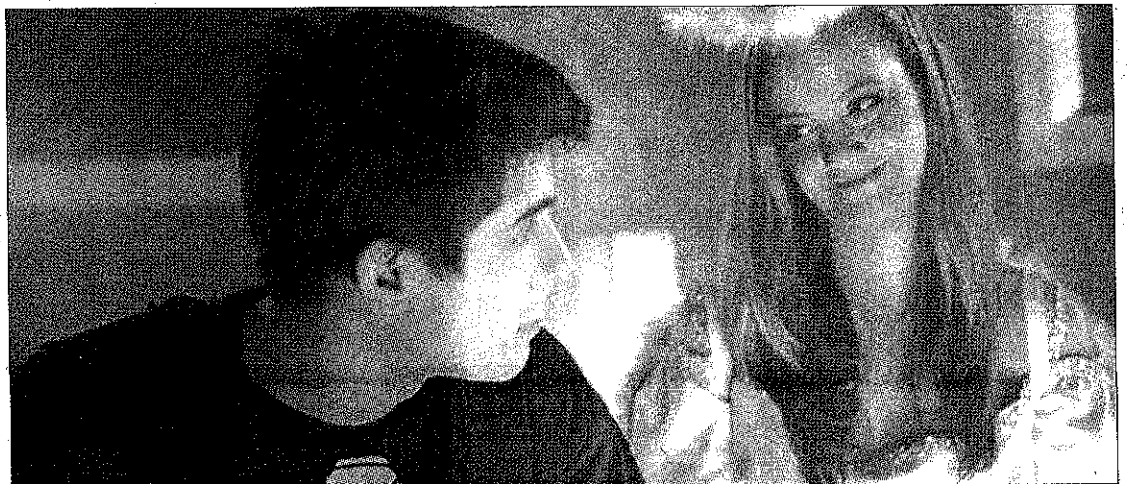
"With this one, I figured, I don't care if it puts me in the poor house, I'm just going to make it. A lot of people say I won't make it and that I'm living in a pipe dream, but I feel that if I don't get distracted, I can get there."

You follow the progress of *Mortal Remains* on Facebook.



GLENNA TURNBULL/eVent photo
Trevor Trombley shows some of the recent takes from his movie *Mortal R* his computer.

Chris McNally, who plays Chris Shepard in *Mortal Remains*, and Lauren Donnelly, in the part of Amanda Hayes, in a scene from the movie.



Mortal Remains



to contributed