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Local Filmmakers Seek to Put Las Vegas on Industry Map

LAS VEGAS, NV - Lights! Camera! Action! These days you don't have to go to Hollywood to find world class movies being made. A burgeoning community of Las Vegas based filmmakers are showcasing their efforts right here.

Erick Adam, owner of the independent "Scared-E-Cat Pictures" film production company, said "technology has really changed the game in recent years - you no longer need to be attached to a multimillion dollar Hollywood studio to showcase your vision as an artist. I live in Vegas and I love Vegas, which is why I use cast and crew exclusively from this city. Hollywood has become so stuck on this notion that the only way to make a movie is with tens of millions of dollars, and talent found only in Los Angeles, but it just simply isn't true. Many of the people I work with go on to find very successful careers in Hollywood, and many stay right here in Vegas, but it's the same caliber person all around."

Adam, who's current film "FEAST" is set to premier in September of 2009, says that one of his biggest goals is not only to be seen as a respected artist, but to showcase Las Vegas as a first rate "film town."

"Hollywood productions have a tendency to use Las Vegas as a backdrop. They'll show up here and shoot a movie, but they bring in their cast and crew from Hollywood." He said. "I recently worked with an actress who was told by a Hollywood casting director that he doesn't audition Las Vegas actors, even when shooting a movie or commercial here, because there is no talent in this city. That same actress drove to L.A. a couple of weeks later and was cast in a nationally distributed TV commercial for a major corporation. It wasn't that her talent level had changed, it was only that she was auditioning in a different city."

While Scared-E-Cat Pictures focuses exclusively on horror films, Adam says that a big part of his strategy for showcasing local talent is to work with other Las Vegas based filmmakers of all genres by sharing resources. "A lot of people - including filmmakers - don't realize that we have a sizable underground independent film movement in Southern Nevada" he explained. "'FEAST' is a film about an anthropologist who becomes a modern American cannibal - pretty gruesome stuff. It's the sort of thing that appeals strongly to horror fans, but might not be someone else's cup of tea. But I know people making comedies, dramas, science fiction pictures, mysteries - the whole gamut. And I've helped out on all these sets. If I'm not shooting something on a given day, and someone else needs a B-Camera operator, I'm happy to drive out and shoot for them. Everyone who knows me knows that if they ever have any questions about editing, sound design, lighting, etc., I'm just an email or phone call away. And I know that they'll do the same for me. That sense of camaraderie is something you don't get in New York or L.A."

When asked why his company makes only horror films, Adam responded "I make horror movies because I love horror. I love the mythology of it; the collective consciousness we all have about what is scary. I think fear is probably our most primal emotion, and undoubtedly our most honest. To create something that makes that kind of a connection with thousands of people around the world feels like such a privilege; it's really the ultimate mark of success for an artist."

To learn more about Scared-E-Cat Pictures and "FEAST", visit www.LetTheFeastBegin.com.

About Scared-E-Cat Pictures:

Erick Adam founded Scared-E-Cat Pictures in 2008 after spending five years learning the art of filmmaking on sets in Detroit, Hollywood, and Las Vegas. He is assisted by his long time friend and colleague Jonathan Hart, who serves as company vice president. With one feature film and several shorts complete, and a slate of additional projects in development, Scared-E-Cat Pictures looks to be a key player in the cultivation of the Las Vegas film movement.

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