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Actress Sharon Tipsword watches director Mike Boedicker at work on the film 'Revolting.'

'REVOLTING'

Sequel drama

Local filmmaker's work gets inside the head of a playwright

By **PAT PHILLIPS**
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DANVILLE — A feature-length film directed and co-produced by Danville's Mike Boedicker is positively revolting.

No, really, it is "Revolting," the story of a playwright who has had one extremely successful play and since then has tried to be a serious play writer, only to fail abysmally. When he's encouraged to write a sequel to his successful play, "The Madcap Murderesses," he begins to channel his first play's characters, who revolt over how he is developing the new story line.

"The story actually came from thinking about the phrase, 'It wrote itself,'" Boedicker said. "Some writers are almost possessed as they write, it all just comes together in a hurry. In the film, the story almost does write itself because the 'ghost' characters take over the writing."

Are you confused? Try this. The film features actors playing community theater actors who were in an original successful play as well as the characters to be in the sequel. They play themselves, actors in rehearsal for a play and characters in the writer's imagination — and sometimes it's hard to tell who is who.

In sorting out who is who a key is that when the actors speak as themselves, they have Midwest accents; when they speak as the charac-



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From left, actors Eric Sizemore, Julia Sullivan and Leslie Boedicker prepare for a scene in 'Revolting.'

ters in the writer's mind, they speak in high English; and when they are in the roles of the actors speaking with an English accent, it sounds more like a Cockney English. The result is pure confusion at times not only for the audience but the lead character, the writer,

Schedule

Screenings of "Revolting" by Danville filmmaker Mike Boedicker (all screenings are general seating):

— 8 p.m. Aug. 14, Kathryn Randolph Theater, 601 N. Vermilion St., Danville. \$5 per person.

— 8 p.m. Aug. 20 and 21, Fischer Theatre, 158 N. Vermilion St., Danville. \$5 per person.

— TBA Sept. 25 and 26, Art Theater, 126 W. Church St. Check www.thecourt.com for ticket prices and times.

— 8 p.m. Oct. 23, Sleepy Creek Vineyards, off Interstate 74, 3.5 miles south of Oakwood exit 206. \$5 per person.

For more information, e-mail info@roselawn-productions.com or visit www.revoltingmovie.com to view the movie trailer.

Please see **MOVIE, G-2**

MOVIE

Continued from G-1

as well.

The premise actually helps with the financial side of making a film since the same actors play more than one part.

"Double casting costs no extra money," Boedicker said. "And it really makes scheduling rehearsals and shoots a lot easier. The more people you have, the more scheduling issues."

Although the film is a comedy, there is a tragic quality to the character of the writer. The back story shows that he has been prolific, but the only hit has been in a genre in which he's not fond of working.

Now, he's set out to do the will of others with a sequel to his successful play only to have the characters inflict their will on him.

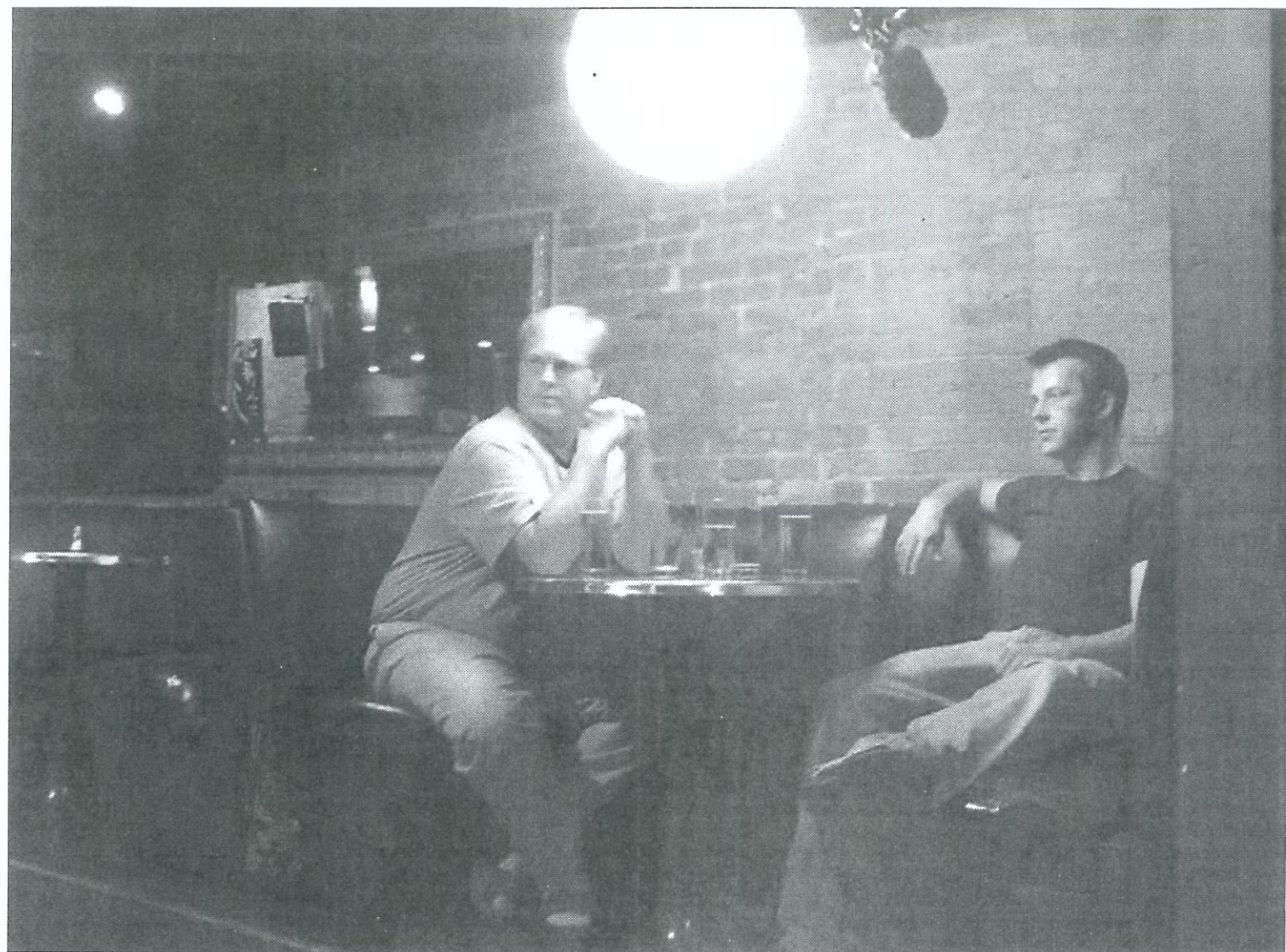
"It's frightening and exciting at the same time as he mentally tries to cope with the ongoing struggles in his head," Boedicker said.

The Penelope/Tanya role, played by Danville's Julia Megan Sullivan, has the strongest battle of wills with Jeff, the writer. She is the protagonist who is really an antagonist.

Boedicker met Bill Kephart, who plays the writer, and Eric Sizemore (Frederick/Blaine) at a Champaign Movie Makers meeting.

Other actors: Leslie Boedicker, Mike's wife, who also served as co-producer; Sharon Tipword, the only actor Boedicker had in mind for casting from the very beginning. Tipword takes the role of the play's director in the film.

While setting the scene, casting and shooting are the major elements to any film, Boedicker's editing was certainly challenging. Shooting in high definition allowed him



Actors Bill Kephart, left, and Eric Sizemore on location at the Highdive.

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to create all the scenes with the actors appearing together in their separate personas.

"Pacing is everything," Boedicker explained. "The dialogue is wall-to-wall in all the scenes where the appearances are overlapping."

Boedicker used a stationary camera and stand-ins for the second of the dual characters, the actors and stand-ins spoke the dialogue for pacing, then the actors would switch costumes and the scene would be

reshot.

The film was shot in fall 2008, primarily in the Kathryn Randolph Theater, Danville, but also with locations at Kickapoo State Park, Oakwood; and The HighDive nightclub and Isotech Laboratories in Champaign.

Boedicker screened earlier cuts for a University of Illinois film class and the movie makers group, asking for feedback, some of which affected the final cut of the film.

The public premier is set for 8 p.m. at the Kathryn Randolph Theater, 601 N. Vermilion St., with additional screenings planned in the Fischer Theater lobby, The Art in Champaign and Sleepy Creek Vineyards near Oakwood.

Now that the film is in the DVD case, Boedicker plans to submit it to various film festivals and hopes to get it in video stores and on the Internet too.

'By the Numbers'

From director Mike Boedicker at www.revoltingmovie.com:

- **Running time:** 81 minutes.
- **Raw footage:** 30 hours.
- **Number of computer files:** 16,000-plus.
- **Total storage used:** 839 gigabytes.
- **Brain cells fried completing the project:** Unknown.