

J.P. filmmakers wrap principle photography on Circuit

Scott Wachtler

Last year, with help from a fundraiser at The Alchemist Lounge which brought in \$2,500, Jamaica Plain filmmaker Andrew Landauro and co-writer Ben Woodard shot the last segment of their surreal sci-fi movie, "Circuit."

The movie is based on the five human senses. Each story can be told separately, but ultimately they are tied together by one connection that brings all the characters and stories together.

Landauro and Woodard are careful about how much of the plot they'll give away, but the main idea is that glowing pods affect characters in all five storylines in a way that affects their senses.

"[Each segment is] like a puzzle," Landauro said in an earlier interview. "Each piece has its own image and once those are put together, the full image comes out."

With principle photography behind them, they now have about 93 percent of their film shot. They are currently in the process of scoring the film, tightening the edit, doing the special effects and shooting minor pickup shots.

They recently pored through over 20 hours of footage and put together a two-hour rough-cut of the film. Landauro and Woodard say that the final cut of Circuit will premiere later this year.

"If it doesn't come out this year, we've done something seriously wrong," Woodard said. "We have what the movie is going to be fairly locked down."

Both are savvy when it comes to how to distribute the movie and said that they want to be careful about how and when they release the film. Early on, the idea of releasing the movie's segments as Podcasts was an idea, but now Landauro isn't sure if that's the best way. Both agree that they're looking more towards the self-distribution route.

"We want to make connection with not only reviewers and bloggers, but we want to establish a fan-base as well," Landauro said.

They are currently working on organizing which film festival deadlines they need to meet so they can enter the film, but they're realistic about their expectations.

"There's a slimmer than slim chance of having that big success right out of the gate where someone's going to give you \$10 million to distribute the film," Woodard said.

"On my end there's some trepidation about releasing it too prematurely and having it not catch on at the right moment." Landauro said.

Woodard, co-wrote and co-edited the film with Landauro. During his spare hours from work at Boston Camera Rental Company, he and Landauro work in six hour editing sessions two or three times a week.

"It's really amazing to see the film come together," Woodard said. "It's the first time anything I've written has been visualized."

"It's really amazing to see the story come together on the screen," Landauro said. "On the screen it looks a lot more expensive than it actually is."

Woodard said that the editing process enabled him to see different ways to tell Circuit's story. "Some scenes come together in a completely different way when they're edited together. They have a different impact and sometimes we find that a scene that we loved just doesn't work at all," Woodard said.

Both agreed that the editing process has helped them refine Circuit's story; a story they came up with over five years ago while waiting in line for a concert.

"It's like this is the third time we've told the story. We wrote it; Andrew shot it and now we're editing it," Woodard said.

Landauro and Woodard also had high praise for the acting performances in the movie. They've kept in touch with most of the actors even though some have moved on to New York and California.

"Early on we were given advice that no matter how good the script was, all the hard work would go down the drain if the acting was bad," Landauro said. "We're really happy with all the performances. They really add to the production."

With the end of the project close enough to see, Landauro said that he's not sure if it's hit him yet.

"I think [it will hit me] when it first screens in front of a large group of people. I think that's when I'll feel like: 'Oh man,

I'm going to throw up!' Right now it's such a day in and day out experience that is always on my mind that it's hard to gain perspective on it," Landauro said.

To see a preview of Circuit or to get more information, check out their website at: www.whatisacircuit.com.

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