

ON LOCATION

DEVELOPING SHELDON in New Hampshire

DEVELOPING SHELDON a feature indie has just wrapped principal photography in southern New Hampshire. Written and directed by Terre Weisman, **DEVELOPING SHELDON** is the story of three childhood friends who, in their late twenties, now face the realities of love and death. Of course, whether it be the best of times or worst of times, family dysfunction only becomes magnified, providing the comic edge we can witness in any family when we are able to step back and look.

Terre Weisman, a native of the Boston area, is no stranger to comedy or music. Now a resident in Southern New Hampshire, Terre is a self-taught musician and has written and produced numerous original compositions, some of which will be used in **DEVELOPING SHELDON**. Terre also did stand up. Starting his comedy career in the late seventies in Cambridge, MA at the infamous Ding Ho before turning his attention to writing specs for *Seinfeld*, *Wings*, and *News Radio* just to name a few. **DEVELOPING SHELDON** is just one of a few feature scripts Terre has.

After three weeks of auditions, Terre feels he put together a cast with some of the best talent in the New England area. "I feel every member of the cast is without limitations" Said Weisman. "I knew immediately that I could not have cast any better".

Anyone familiar with the talent pool here in New England I'm sure would agree. Ryan Gaul, a major force with Boston's Improv Asylum landed the lead as Sheldon. Leading this drama with his talent and comic abilities provided the perfect balance for the chemistry needed in his on screen dysfunctional family. Linda Amendola (*IMAGINE* October 2001 feature) played perfectly against Ryan as his childhood friend searching for the intimacy in her life. David Ian, straight from *Slamdance*, in the lead for *EASY LISTENING* played Sheldon's father Murray. Bobby DiVito even flew in from L.A. and "The King Of Queens" to play Sheldon's other childhood friend and cousin. Terre and Bobby had met a few years ago up at the



Film and Television Workshops in Maine.

Produced under Terre's LLC Creative

say's the three of them could not have pulled this off without daily communication with each other. We also valued the support from "Boston Camera Rental".

As Terre's first time out as director, the shoot finished on time and the word on the street is that a rough cut is right around the corner. Terre has been sending daily's to editor Peter White who has been putting together a rough cut as they come in and of course, Terre and Peter will work diligently now that shooting has wrapped.

In the course of production, Terre found nothing but open arms. "The local businesses and



Clockwise: Getting ready for a scene in the park. L-R DP Gary Anderson with Production Designer Fred Smith and PA Brad Cheyne standing behind Ryan Gaul and Laurie Gould.

Linda Amendola.

Director Terre Weisman (l) and DP Gary Anderson discuss the next shot before Gary rides on the boom.

Preparing for a camera store scene. Terre talks with Bobby DiVito about the next take. Ryans back is to us.

The dysfunctional family. L-R Laurie Gould as Aunt Rose, Fred Brassette, Linda Amendola, David Ian, and Monica Farrington.

Father and Son. Terre Weisman talks with his 7yr old son Nathan who was an usher in the wedding scene.



Balance Films and with only three weeks of preproduction and three weeks of shooting, it's been a tight schedule to say the least. Trimming his script back to about 105 pages was needed to accommodate the shoot on this self-funded production. "You do what's needed to be done" Said Terre. "Obviously, protecting the integrity of the story. Being the writer and director has been the real benefit when locations and/or schedules need to change"

Some of the most challenging issues have been technical. Shot on HD 24p, a lot of technical issues had to be addressed, but none insurmountable according to Terre. "With such a new technology, we needed to surround ourselves with a crew that understood the particulars." With DP Gary Anderson, sound by Anton Gold and editing by twenty-five year veteran Peter White (*IMAGINE* July 2000 Cover Story), Terre

authorities made themselves available to me in ways I would have never dreamed." Producing this using SAG's Limited Exhibition Low Budget Agreement has given the film the opportunity to not only use non-SAG talent but also the ability to rely upon veteran SAG actors like the versatile and talented Laurie Gould and Fred Brassette.

As mentioned earlier, this has been a self-funded production by Terre. With the ultimate goal of **DEVELOPING SHELDON**, Terre, with the support of his wife, Peggy, of eighteen years, started funding Creative Balance Films back in 1997. "It's been a long road but I feel my patience has paid off" Terre stated. "When it's your own dime, I think the passion for the project is heightened to a new level". "The only advice I have for other Filmmakers is to not let go of your dream. You will find a way."



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