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Wilton Arts and Film Festival features Hollis director

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WILTON - Terre Weisman of Hollis decided to make a film as a way to break into show business.

He had done some television scripts and some screenplays, but "Developing Sheldon" is the first film he has written, directed and produced.

Weisman entered the film "in a lot of contests," he said. "That is the logical next step. It didn't make it into Sundance."

One of those contests was the Wilton Arts and Film Festival, where it was chosen best

drama. It will be screened at the Town Hall Theatre at the festival on Saturday at 3:35 p.m.

This weekend marks the 10th-annual Wilton Arts and Film Festival, which kicks off tonight with a black-tie optional premiere night at the Town Hall Theatre. Along with film showings and awards, the weekend includes live music and a juried art show.

"I'm thrilled to put this on my resume," said Weisman, who has worked on the film since 1991. "I was attending the Maine Film and TV Workshops. I had this idea that started as a comedy and it



WEISMAN
Film named best drama at festival.

ended as a drama. The characters have been with me since 1991 or so. It just evolved as I was writing into what it is today."

Weisman has lived in Hollis since 1988, and is originally from the Boston area. He and his wife, Peggy, have two sons, ages 10 and 8. He has worked for Peters Auto Sales of Nashua for the past 18 years.

"In 1996 or '97, I asked my wife if she minded if I took a few dollars each week to make a film. She was very supportive. Last year I decided the time had come, the script was ready. I think there comes a time," he added, "when you have to step into maturity. This film looks at one of those events. The film opens with three friends about 11 or 12 (years old) and follows them into their 20s."

Weisman is ready to try another film project.

"I have a few more scripts, but it is a very expensive undertaking. This one was self-financed, but I'd need some backing for another one. But completing one shows you can do it, go the distance."

Interests must be passions for them to go far and be honored as such, he said.

"If you're in it for fame and fortune," he said, "you'll probably be disappointed, but if you do it as a labor of love, something like this award is so gratifying. It's nice to be recognized by your peers."

Directing actors reciting his lines "was great," he said. "To have them bring your characters to life, to see my characters come to life, was one of the best parts of the film. I am anxious to do another one."

On Saturday, he said, it will be the first time he has watched a screening before strangers.

"Your family and friends aren't always truthful," he said. "I don't think anyone can realize what it means to win best drama award. It confirms that taking risks is worth it. This is one of the biggest risks I've ever taken, not only financially, but creatively. It solidifies the belief I had in myself."

"Developing Sheldon" is one of 16 films that will be shown at the festival beginning at 9:15 a.m.