



By Erika Hahn

SHORTNESS OF BREATH:

Film Takes to the Streets of Boston

An abandoned car repair lot in North Cambridge in broad daylight is the site of a drug deal in progress as cars zoom by on Massachusetts Avenue. Two husky men by a late model car open the trunk and exchange a brown wrapped package with a dapper looking man who looks like he walked off the pages of a 1940's comic strip, complete with hat and tweed suit. Suddenly the word "Cut!" rings out and it's another take on the Super 16 camera in the car for Director Zachary Lee on the set of his first feature **SHORTNESS OF BREATH**.

Lee graduated from Boston University recently with a film degree. In between his day job teaching at Fitchburg State, he is completing his screenplay on film, with a 30K budget, for the film festival circuit and ultimately distribution. Many members of his crew are fellow BU graduates whom he did student projects with including DP Matthew Payne and Co-Producer Nina Farouk and Producer Joanna Jefferson.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH concerns a couple on the lam from the law. Actor Beno Chapman plays the main character Michael, a lost drifter type. Both Michael and his girlfriend Patricia create a fantasy life together of the glamorous criminal that has no relation to reality. As they hole up in a motel Patricia grows bored and returns to the city. Michael is forced to look at himself and make a decision to return to get her back and face possible arrest. A quote from the website reads: "They want excitement and adventure and so construct an elaborate play-world for themselves. Their challenge is to see how far they can carry their construct before the 'real world' closes in on them."

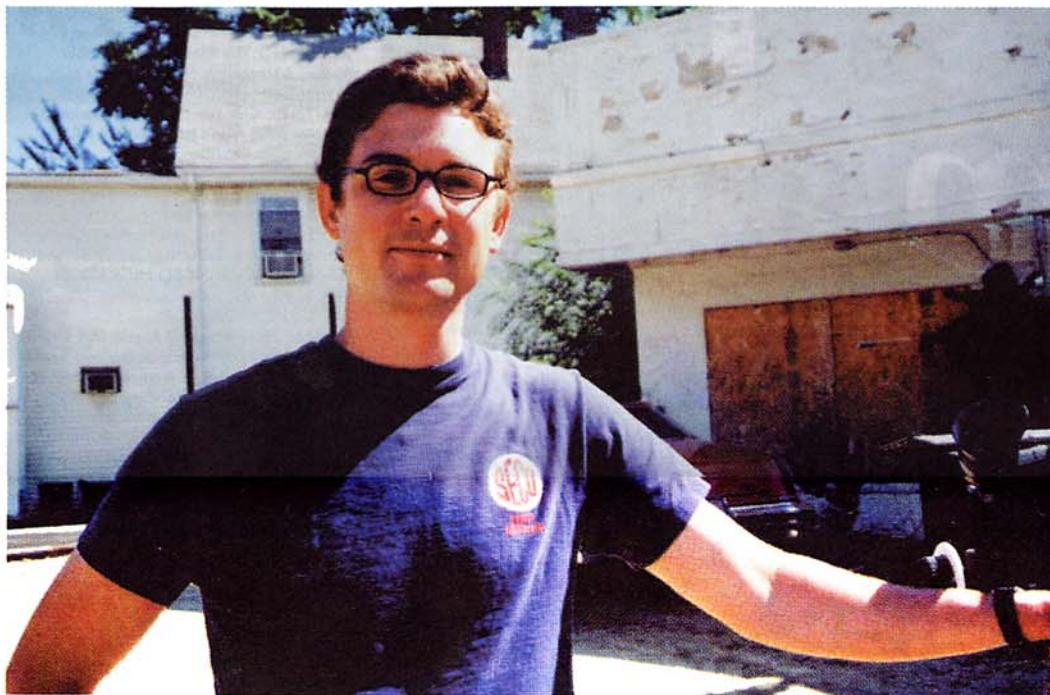
Lee said, "The idea came from a mix of a lot of things. I wrote about characters who lead ordinary lives putting on masks to live glamorous lives." Lee said he drew inspiration from French New Wave of the '60s and American Film Noir tradition.

Lee said as a director he feels it is important to let everyone on the crew do their jobs. He has directed several shorts, but finds his first feature length film requires a lot of stamina. "It's like steering a boat, waves throw you around a bit, you just aim in certain directions," he said. As a director he said he makes sure to respect the actors and crew and let them do good work.

Nina Farouk praised Lee's laid back style as a director. "He really keeps the crew relaxed," she said. "We have shot in some challenging situations and he keeps the tone on an even keel. He really trusts his crew."

Lee's film has been on location in Cambridge, Somerville, Quincy, and Concord. He resides in Somerville and said he likes the Boston area and plans to continue to make films here. Central Productions is the fiscal sponsor for **SHORTNESS OF BREATH**.

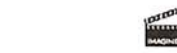
For more information visit the website www.roadsidepictures.com.



TOP: **SHORTNESS OF BREATH** Writer/Director Zak Lee by the Super 16 Film Camera. Imagine Photo by Erika Hahn.

RIGHT: Lead Actor Beno Chapman plays "Michael" in Zak Lee's **SHORTNESS OF BREATH**, a full length feature being shot in the Boston area. Imagine Photo by Erika Hahn.

BOTTOM: **SHORTNESS OF BREATH** crew shoot a scene at an abandoned garage in Cambridge, MA. From left: DP Matthew Payne, Writer/Director Zak Lee, Actors John Sapphire, Yves Ethcart, Beno Chapman and far left Still Photographer Lydia Kuhn. Imagine Photo by Erika Hahn.



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