

# ARTS & LIVING

## North Kingstown filmmaker returns to roots with local shoot

Shooting recently wrapped at Davisville Middle School on "Tough All Over," a coming-of-age film by North Kingstown resident Keith Brown. The movie, Brown's thesis film for the MFA program at Boston University, was inspired by his upbringing.

"I really want this to be a R.I. film," Brown said. "I admire independent filmmakers in New England because they are able to make so much with the limited

resources that exist here as opposed to filmmakers working within the Hollywood system."

A native Rhode Islander, Brown started making films as soon as he was "old enough to steal" his parents' Super 8 camera. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in art from the University of Rhode Island and is working toward a master's degree in film production at BU. While at URI, Brown produced, directed and edited three films - two of which have been screened at the R.I. International Film Festival and the Columbus International Film and Video Festival.

One of his films, "Moving Pictures," was honored as the first-place student experimental film at the Columbus festival. It also placed first in the experimental film and best of festival categories at URI's Visualizations Film Festival.

"I'm inspired by local filmmakers, such as Laura Colella ["Tax Day"], who are so devoted to their craft that they spend years raising money to finance their film," Brown said. "I also think that filmmaking, in general, is very exciting to Rhode

Islanders, which is a great benefit to me, because I'm able to get a lot of support from the community."

"Tough All Over" tells the story of Nathan, a middle school boy in the sixth grade. The film explores the awkward time in a young boy's life when he is dealing with puberty - his first crush, his first school dance and the terrors of gym class. It pays homage to the era when we played dodge ball, sang along

with pop songs without really knowing what the words meant and agonized over asking a girl to dance.

"I'm really excited about this project because it is combining all the things that are close to me," he said. "Family, friends, and let's not forget the nostalgia and music of the '80s."

Brown has contacted John Cafferty, another native Rhode Islander who scored big in the 1980s with the Beaver Brown Band on the "Eddie and the Cruisers" soundtrack, to obtain permission to use the song "Tough All Over" in the film.

"I think one problem with student films is that many times they scrimp on music," he said. "In my film, the music is almost as important as the characters. It really defines the time and also says a lot about what the kids that grew up during the period were thinking and feeling."

Brown received a grant from the R.I. Foundation that will partly fund the film. He also has received a Target of Opportunity grant through Kodak and BU, which will supply him with \$1,200 worth of Kodak film

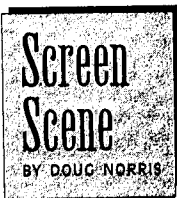


PHOTO: JAMES RUSH

Director Keith Brown plans a scene for his coming-of-age flick, "Tough All Over," which recently completed principal shooting at Davisville Middle School. The North Kingstown resident is making a film about growing up in Rhode Island for his thesis project in an MFA program at Boston University.

stock. "Tough All Over" was shot on 16mm Kodak film at Davisville Middle School from July 22 through Aug. 4. Post-production will be completed in December at the BU film facilities.

**TEA WITH MARIE:** Marie Younkin-Waldman, host/producer of the unique TV talk show, "Tea With Marie," has announced the show will be returning to local airwaves this fall.

The program focuses on beauty, gentility and tranquility as conversations take place over a ritual tea ceremony.

The show will be aired on the

Statewide Interconnect Channel on cable (Channel 13 in South County).

The first program will focus on mentor programs, Younkin-Waldman said, or "the beauty of adults helping children." It will examine success stories such as the Feinstein programs and Big Sisters of Rhode Island.

Other shows lined up include:

- \* David Brusatt, architecture columnist with the Providence Journal;

- \* Mimi Sammis, an internationally known sculptor who resides in Narragansett and has worked with local children on works of art and peace;

- \* An exploration of French culture;

- \* A relaxation show featuring massage, facials and more;

- \* Mark Levitt, a storyteller and performer from Wakefield;

- \* Meera Viswanathan, a Brown professor who lives in Matunuck and will discuss the role of the Japanese tea garden and teahouse.

A complete on-air schedule will be announced soon. Look for it in future Screen Scene columns.

Younkin-Waldman invites any readers who know of special people with unique talents to contact her through her Web

site, [www.teawithmarie.com](http://www.teawithmarie.com).

**LA DOLCE VITA:** "Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito," the longest-running cooking series on PBS, will co-produce its 13th season on public television in partnership with WSBE-TV Channel 36 in Providence.

The 26 half-hour episodes will begin airing in May 2003. The new season will feature segments filmed in Tuscany and Providence, capturing the spirit of Tuscan cooking for a nationwide audience of more than 1.2 million viewers each week.

The studio-cooking segments, featuring Esposito in her kitchen, were produced last month using Channel 36's production facilities. Its studios have enough room to house the "Ciao Italia" TV kitchen in addition to the prep kitchens needed to deliver a three-program-a-day production, plus food styling areas to make the finished recipes look as mouthwatering on camera as they do in the studio.

A production team of more than 25 people will contribute to the show. There also will be a core of volunteers, including culinary students from Johnson & Wales University.

"Ciao Italia" has aired on more than 270 public television stations nationwide since its debut in 1989. Esposito, the author of seven best-selling cookbooks, has appeared nationally on a variety of network programs as well, including "The Today Show" and "Live with Regis and Kathy Lee."

*Screen Scene is a column focusing on TV and movies of interest to southern Rhode Island. It appears on the second Thursday of each month. Send information to [dnorris@scindep.ri.edu](mailto:dnorris@scindep.ri.edu).*