

North Coast filmmaker uses a local backdrop

Local talent, scenery showcased in 'Culpa'

By Gregory E. Zschomler
Cannon Beach Gazette

Drew Reid, 60, is the driving force behind Arch Cape Studios and the Web show "Culpa," Latin for "guilt" or "fault." His passion for using local talent and vistas to make cinematographic art is as much a part of his craft as are cameras and boom mikes.

The idea behind "Culpa," Reid said, is to present original stories told by a local cast and crew, all set against the region's "amazing" backdrop. Much of the last episode was shot in and around Wheeler. Some of the upcoming installment was shot in Cannon Beach with Haystack Rock in the background. The first episode of "Culpa" debuted in the fall of 2014. The fourth episode of the show's first season is now in post-production and will be uploaded soon. The Web show is viewable at the Arch Cape Studios site, but Reid hopes to find a distributor, like Hulu, by the third season of the show.

While a small role might occasionally be cast from outside the area, most players and crew live on the North Coast. Cannon Beach resident Pia Shepherd, often seen onstage at the Coaster Theatre, had a recent part. Reid described Shepherd as a seasoned actress who comes to the project prepared, knows her lines and has the proper work mindset.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

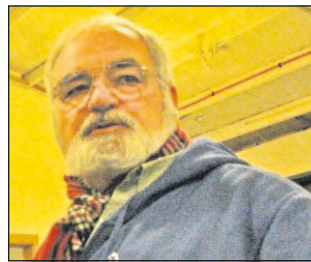
Singer Maggie Kitson performs in the Web series "Culpa."

Another local artist is Tolovana Park musician Maggie Kitson. Kitson grew up in Portland and moved to Cannon Beach right after high school. She then got married and traveled the world in a duo with her new husband. When that fell apart, Kitson spent a year getting mentored in the blues in New Orleans. One of the reasons she went to New Orleans was to experience the world of American playwright Tennessee Williams, her godfather's brother. Now returned to Cannon Beach, she still sings the blues in the venues around the area. Theater and film, along

with music, are her greatest loves.

Reid is the show's writer, director, editor and producer. He left his career in forensic animation to pursue live action filmmaking. "I didn't know what the hell I was doing," he admitted.

It's been a learning experience which he likened to moving into a fixer-upper where you make improvements as you go along. Using this metaphor he said that in the first episode of "Culpa," "the staircase banister was a two-by-four," now it's been upgraded to something more attractive.



ERICK BENGEL PHOTO

Writer, director and producer Drew Reid working moments before the premiere of "Culpa: Episode 2."

Early issues included finding talent, obtaining or borrowing equipment and establishing professional relationships, perhaps the most difficult task. Though lighting and audio can be

really big issues, he said that shooting a 22-minute show on a budget with inexperienced actors who may or may not show up prepared are greater challenges.

Reid said he loves the episodic format, and prefers making and watching short stories over full-length film. He said the creative process for the Web show is a culmination of all the things he enjoys, and he can hardly wait to get the next episode online.

"I get this energy after I shoot and edit, so I throw short rough cuts online for people to see," Reid said. He also gets feedback from

filmmaker forums, which can be brutal, but their critique has helped improve the show.

According to Reid, "Culpa" now has a regular ensemble cast. "I've got a couple of characters now I really feel good about," he said.

There are occasional needs for actors; casting currently calls for a few women in their 30s.

"Culpa" may be streamed online at Culpa-online.com. Reid invites financial support for the production through PayPal at the site. To become part of the cast or crew, contact Reid at drew@archcapstudios.com.



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