

# 'A love letter to my home state'

## Thriller nears the finish line

By Eve Marx  
For EO Media Group

The South County's turn on the big screen comes closer as crew members put finishing touches on "Seaside," the movie, which was shot in April in Seaside, Cannon Beach and Arch Cape, where the filmmaker's parents own a home. "My parents have a home in Arch Cape and I've spent a lot of time there," Zalutsky said.

"We are almost finished," director Sam Zalutsky said, speaking from his home in New York City. Post-production — including color correction, sound editing and sound design are expected to reach completion in about a month. "The movie is a love letter to my home state," he said.

Zalutsky said he was drawn to do a film about Seaside after spending so much time here as a youth.

"The Oregon Coast landscape has so seldom been caught on film," he added. "I knew I could do a visually dynamic film, and of course I had use of my parents' beach house not just as a location, but as a place to live during the shooting."

While writing the script, Zalutsky incorporated locations like Funland, the Arcade and the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, which offered up a side room for an interrogation scene. Zalutsky, a Portland native and master of fine arts graduate from New York University's Tisch

School of the Arts, was short-listed for the Independent Spirit Award's "Someone to Watch Award" for his first feature, "You Belong To Me."

His 17-minute film "How to Make it to the Promised Land" was funded through Kickstarter and a Jerome Foundation grant. Zalutsky wrote "Seaside" during a residency at the MacDowell Colony, an artist colony in New Hampshire.

This month, a social media fundraising campaign is helping filmmakers cross the finish line.

### 'Hamilton' star

Ariana DeBose, who appeared in the original Broadway cast of "Hamilton," stars with Oregon native Stefanie Leigh in this female-driven revenge thriller.

"The film is a thriller with lots of twists," Zalutsky said.

His script tells the story of a young woman who moves to the Oregon Coast with her boyfriend to start a new life in the beach house he's inherited from his parents. When the two bump into another young woman who has previous knowledge of the boyfriend, it becomes apparent the boyfriend hasn't been entirely forthcoming about his past. Bad things — very bad things — soon start happening.

To produce the film, Zalutsky recruited fellow Portlanders Alyssa Roehrenbeck ("The Drunk Series," "Gage," "DOTT") and Kevin Corstange, who has appeared in productions at Portland Center Stage and now is a New York-based producer.

Local casting was provided by Simon Max Hill, who also helped cast IFC's "Portlandia."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Director Sam Zalutsky with cinematographer Phil Anderson.

"Seaside" received encouragement and support from the local Seaside community, including in-kind donations from local businesses, including Sleepy Monk Coffee, Cannon Beach's American Legion Post 168, Seaside Gelato, the Spindrift Inn and the City of Seaside Union Bank.

Basic Rights Oregon, a progressive group for social equality, also hosted a fundraiser to benefit both "Seaside" and the organization.

As the film draws closer to completion, Zalutsky said he's starting to submit it to film festivals, some of them in Oregon. He hopes to have screenings in Portland and on the coast.

The local landscape plays a key role, with its "beautiful, but dangerous" cliffs, rocks, wind and rain.

"As befits the landscape, we learn it's not an easy place to live," Zalutsky said. "The environment is beautiful but dangerous."

Ariana DeBose and Matt Shingledecker in various scenes while filming "Seaside."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Providence Hospital offers community resource desk

Providence Seaside Hospital and Clatsop Community Action, in a community partnership, have opened a community resource desk at the main entrance to the hospital in Seaside.

The services offered include signing up for food stamp benefits, assistance with finding food pantries, locating housing resources, utility and heating assistance, transportation options as well other needed services.

This resource is open to all residents and visitors of Clatsop County and provides a convenient location for all who live in, or are visiting South Clatsop County. This service is also available in downtown Astoria at the Clatsop Community Action office located at 364 Ninth St.

The Seaside location is staffed by Marcelo Hernandez, a bilingual referral coordinator employed by Clatsop Community Action and funded by Providence Community Health Division. The desk is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located in the main lobby of Providence Seaside Hospital, 725 Wahanna Road, Seaside; 503-717-7176.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marcelo Hernandez, a bilingual referral coordinator at the resource desk.

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