

www.louisville.com/voice/

THE VOICE-TRIBUNE

© The Voice-Tribune, Louisville, Ky., Vol. 17, No. 3, 34 pages, 3 sections

50 cents

Reel life in Louisville

Director Stu Pollard set to shoot 2nd film in hometown this summer

By CARRIE VESEL
Staff Correspondent

Movie-goers who were thrilled to see Louisville scenery and actors in full cinematic splendor in Stu Pollard's 1999 film "Nice Guys Sleep Alone" will most likely get another chance.

The Louisville-born director, writer and producer is in pre-production for his new edgy comedy about trust in relationships, "Keep Your Distance," which is set to begin filming this summer.

Pollard has spent the last three months flying between Louisville and Los Angeles to secure what he refers to as "name talent," a recognizable Hollywood figure, for one of the film's title roles (not to be revealed during negotiations). There are around 40 speaking parts in the film, and plenty of local casting opportunities. "Nice Guys" featured actors Sean O'Bryan and Maggie Lawson, both Louisville natives.

Pollard, 36, looks forward to working in Louisville again, tentatively in such locations as Glassworks, the studio of WHAS radio, various downtown spots, a home at Floyds Fork and local restaurants.

"This film is a little more urban versus bucolic, like 'Nice Guys,'" said Pollard, who lives in Prospect with his wife Vanessa Cox Pollard. "Nice Guys" was filmed at Pollard's family farm, Hermitage, in Goshen, his alma mater Kentucky Country Day School and residences in tree-lined St. Matthews.

"There are so many great reasons to film in Louisville," said Pollard. "It's beautiful, and the



Stu
Pollard

community is so supportive. It's great to work in an environment where people are cheering for you."

Most of the film's production cost is being contributed by local investors, as was the case during "Nice Guys," said Pollard.

"Keep Your Distance" is about a man and woman in their 30s who maintain a long-distance relationship and must face issues of trust and communication.

"These are two characters who've reached a point in their lives where they don't trust anyone anymore," said Pollard. "Love, or even business relationships and friendships, can't exist in the absence of trust."

Pollard said the film is a little more exploratory than the light-hearted "Nice Guys." Characters have darker aspects to them and face more difficult choices in "Keep Your Distance."

"There are two layers here," said Pollard. "What people appear to be and what they really are."

Pollard's screenwriting has found inspiration in a variety of sources. His recent marriage started out as a long-distance acquaintance, for one. He also has enjoyed the style of writers such as Alan Ball, who wrote the dark comedy "American Beauty," and

comedic directors John Landis, Harold Ramis, Ivan Reitman and Cameron Crowe.

"Nice Guys" enjoyed a run at Baxter Avenue Theaters in 1999, and has since been featured in USA Today, The Washington Post, and Variety. Lifetime Movie Network and HBO have picked up the film, as has American Movie Classics. "Nice Guys" also won awards at the Rhode Island, Marco Island and Las Vegas international film festivals.

"Nice Guys" is available all over the nation and world on VHS and DVD, sold at movie stores and huge Internet outlets such as Amazon.com and netflix.com.

There are plenty of opportunities to become involved in "Keep Your Distance," and the more, the merrier, according to Pollard.

"There's such a fierce sense of loyalty to Louisville on my part," he said. "Not only have people supported filming, but they have also embraced the work once it was finished."

Those interested in supporting "Keep Your Distance" through providing a location, cash or in-kind donations, or food for the set, can contact Pollard via distance-flick.com.

Those who would like to audition for the film's secondary and supporting roles should mail a photo and résumé to: P.O. Box 686, Goshen, KY 40026. Auditions will be announced at the end of May.