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Don't *Keep Your Distance* from this local gem!

BY KATHRYN REILLY

In the perfectly normal town of Louisville, there is a perfectly normal man living the perfect life...but beneath the surface, his idyllic world is falling apart. Louisville native Stu Pollard's intriguing film *Keep Your Distance* is a psychological thriller full of desire, deceit, betrayal, and paranoia. The movie was shot entirely in Kentucky, which gives it an interesting local connection.

"It's nice to be making a film where people are rooting for you," Pollard said. "There's no city I know better in all the world or love more in all the world than Louisville."

He chose to film on location in the 'Ville because "a town like Louisville is where most people live. And this is a story that had to be told here—the city is as much a character as a setting. It gives the film a believable world right away, so when extraordinary things happen, it's even more exciting."

The film does not focus on the fact that it's set in Kentucky, nor does it employ any of the typical stereotypes usually used by Hollywood when referring to the Bluegrass state. Pollard said shooting in Louisville gave a na-



Jennifer Westfeldt plays Melody Carpenter.

tionwide audience a refreshing background setting they are not familiar with.

The movie utilizes many Louisville landmarks, such as the Seelbach Hilton and Churchill Downs, and should kindle a sense of nostalgia for anybody familiar with Jefferson County.

This is the second movie Pollard has filmed in Louisville; his first movie, *Nice Guys Sleep Alone*, was also shot there, and received much acclaim in the independent film circuit.

While *Nice Guys* was a charming romantic comedy, *Keep Your Distance* is a fast-paced suspense, with twists and turns around every

corner. David Dailey is a popular and successful DJ in Louisville who is haunted by a series of mysterious notes that warn of an imminent fall from grace. His sultry wife, Susan, is hell-bent on expanding the horizons of their sex life—with or without him. His longtime assistant is gunning for his job. In the midst of all this, he finds himself increasingly attracted to Melody Carpenter, a curious stranger whom he instinctively trusts, because she doesn't know him well enough to betray him. Melody's jilted boyfriend, Sean, becomes filled with jealousy, and he begins to devise a devious plan to win her back.

Pollard not only wrote, directed, and produced this movie, he was also deeply involved in fund-raising aspects and composing songs for the soundtrack. Since this film is an independent release, Pollard was not shackled by the pressures of a release date and was able to properly cultivate his creation. Making this film, he said, was "a marathon, not a sprint to the finish line."

Keep Your Distance begins at the Kentucky Theater this Friday and will run for a week. Pollard, will be at the opening this weekend and will be available for a question and answer session after the showing.