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FILMMAKER TO BRING MOVIE TO EASTERN



Stu Pollard, center, on the set in Louisville with "Keep Your Distance" stars Jennifer Westfeldt and Gil Bellows.

By Bryan Marshall
Register News Writer

Louisville filmmaker Stu Pollard will be bringing his latest film, "Keep Your Distance," on Tuesday to the Eastern Kentucky University campus.

A reception will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Services Auditorium, immediately followed by the a 7:30

p.m. film screening.

The film's story revolves around a radio talk-show host with an obsessive fan, a marriage on the rocks and a relationship with a traveling pharmaceutical saleswoman.

"It was inspired by a long-distance relationship and the notion that it's easier to like

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and trust someone you don't see every day," Pollard said.

The Muckrakers, a Louisville band featured on the film's soundtrack, will perform at 9 p.m. Monday in the Student Services Auditorium.

Pollard, who will host a question and answer session after the screening, also will meet with students in several classes Monday and Tuesday.

"(The students) will learn a lot about not just making films, but also about marketing, fundraising, managing a large project, public relations... the list goes on and on," said John Fitch, assistant professor in EKU's Department of Communication. "We are very excited about this event."

Fitch worked on the film with Pollard during the summer of 2003 as a production and video assistant, and he has been in contact with the filmmaker since about his own projects.

"I had the opportunity to work closely with the director and the actors," Fitch said. "I learned more as an assistant than I did in several years of film school."

"Keep Your Distance" includes shots from more than 120 different Louisville locations and stars Gil Bellows from "Ally McBeal," Kim Raver from television's "24" and Jennifer Westfeldt from "Kissing Jessica Stein," among others.

The cast is more well-known than Pollard's previous film, the independent film "Nice Guys Sleep Alone," which aired on HBO and the Women's Entertainment Network.

The EKU communications program is in the process of designing a cinema studies option that students will hopefully be able to take beginning next fall, said Fitch, who plans on shooting his own film in Savannah, Ga., where he attended film school.

"I thought that bringing Stu and his film to campus would be a good way to kick off the new program and the EKU film club," Fitch said.

"I am very interested in seeing Kentucky become a sort of hub for independent filmmakers," he said. "There have already been a lot of good projects shot in the Bluegrass, and this area is known for its great writers, artists and musicians. EKU could become a leading school in the region for cinema studies."