

The Eastern Progress

www.easternprogress.com



© 2005 Richmond, Ky.

Student publication of Eastern Kentucky University since 1922

September 29, 2005

Movie director screens film at Eastern

By **Ted Cox**

Staff writer

It wasn't hard to see Director Stu Pollard for the person he truly is as he drove down the Eastern Bypass. He was on his way back from Liquor World this past Monday with a trunk full of beer to deliver to The Muckrakers, a band from the soundtrack of his newest film, before their gig in the Student Services Building.

This certainly must be a compassionate person who takes his fellow man into consideration at nearly all times — after all, every band needs a muse.

Pollard, a Louisville native, was on the Eastern campus earlier this week to screen his newest film, "Keep Your Distance," a tale of a man who had it all but soon begins to lose it piece by piece.

The main character in the film, David Dailey, is in part based on a real person. The true-life character experienced no turmoil in his career and is very respected in Louisville to this day, but Pollard couldn't help wondering what might happen if Dailey's life was turned upside down.

"The professional life of David Dailey is based loosely

on that of the real afternoon host at 84-WHAS, Terry Meiners," Pollard said. "I was really interested in exploring the ups and downs of being a local celebrity — the proverbial big fish in the small pond."

Pollard has screened the film in several venues and is continuing his tour in Fort Wayne, Ind., Dallas, Western Kentucky University and the Hollywood Film Festival.

Pollard was invited to Eastern by communications professor John Fitch, who worked on the film crew in 2003, and Pollard graciously accepted.

Pollard grew up in Louisville and spent a lot of time alone as a child — both his parents worked and separated when he was only four years old. It wasn't that Pollard didn't have friends but he enjoyed his time to himself and credits much of his creative ability to that fact.

"I got into filmmaking



Stu Pollard,
director of
"Keep Your
Distance"

because I love to entertain people," Pollard said. "I love to tell stories. I imagine I started developing this trait fairly early in life."

After high school, upon being influenced by his father's success, Pollard earned a business degree from Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

Pollard soon became increasingly bored with business and moved on to other areas such as advertising, where he could put more of his creativity to use.

Pollard soon found this avenue was leading him in just as wrong a direction as the one that he had been traveling before. He started from scratch and was accepted into film school at the University of Southern California for a Master of Fine Arts in 1995.

Pollard put his business background into use at USC and did budgets for many short films.

"I'm admittedly a bit biased, but if you ask me, USC is the best film school in the world," Pollard said.

In 1998 Pollard began work on his first independent film, costing around \$800,000, titled "Nice Guys Sleep Alone," which he also set in Louisville.

"Louisville is a very film-friendly town," Pollard said. "You

get a remarkably supportive community — one that helps you with everything from great locations to enthusiastic extras for our crowd scenes. You also get tremendous production value — meaning the film looks bigger and better than the typical independent production."

Keeping his movies believable and set in contemporary society is very important to Pollard. He focuses his stories around characters and tries not to focus them so much on the plot.

"Ultimately, I don't worry that everyone in the audience agrees with the decisions the film's characters make. What's more important is that the audience finds the characters and the situations they're in believable to the point of wondering, 'What would I do?'"

"It's nice to get recognition, but making films is what I love to do," Pollard said. "I care far more about getting 'Keep Your Distance' in front of audiences than I do about any award it might earn. When you love doing something, no day is too long, no drive is too far, and no task is too daunting."

Reach Ted at
progress@eku.edu