

Native son returns home to make new film

Story of compassion, change and love filmed in local venues

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Half Moon Bay High School 1992 graduate Richard Kuhr went into the film and corporate media industry in 1995, segued into screenwriting and short film production and now has come back home to the coast to shoot and produce a film he hopes will make a difference for himself and its viewers.

“My passion has always been for narrative storytelling,” said the Half Moon Bay native, now a San Mateo resident. “To tell a story that inspires people to make a difference.”

He has been pursuing that for the past week by filming his feature film, “The Last Few Moments of Sunlight,” in local venues including Seton Medical Center Coastside and Mezza Luna Restaurant.

The filming actually goes back to the summer of 2009, when Kuhr was browsing through MoviePoet.com and a short story caught his eye. He contacted script writer Steven Dexheimer, secured rights to further develop the story into a longer screenplay and added San Jose screenwriter Rick Hellin to the mix.

Serving as producer as well as appearing in the story, he filmed segments of it in mid-June on the Coastside.

In what he describes as a coming-of-age story, it chronicles the relationship of a young couple, how they meet, fall in love and determine to spend their last moments together.

“Robert” is an introvert who becomes more open-minded, “opens his heart and becomes a changed man,” said Kuhr. “Jenny” is an extrovert who sees something special in him. She is also terminally ill.

“She desires to help him,” said Kuhr, “but the irony is that in the end, he helps her by showing her true love, by being very compassionate and supporting her.

“The film is about communication, understanding and compassion,” Kuhr continued. It is also “revelatory of how true love can allow people to grow emotionally while also providing a deeper sense of purpose and meaning to one’s life.”

Making the film might have served the same purpose for Kuhr. He started working professionally in the film industry in 1995 as a production assistant for Bassett Productions in Burlingame, which focuses on television commercial production. Two years later he went into corporate media production in Silicon Valley, producing training and marketing videos for the electronics industry. But in 2001 he left corporate media behind and turned to screenwriting and short-film production.

Since then, he has written numerous short and feature-film screenplays. He plans to enter this film in Cinequest, the San Francisco International Film Festival, the Santa Monica Film Festival and Sundance, in 2011.

He also said he’d like to look into the possibility of a screening through the Half Moon Bay Film Society.