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Young Grafton filmmaker to unveil his second movie, ‘Horizon,’ at Rivoli this week

Last year, when Brady Palubiski was a junior at Grafton High School, he made his movie debut with “Time Tracks,” which aired two nights to sold-out audiences at the Rivoli Theatre in Cedarburg.

This year, his movie “Horizon” will play at 9:30 p.m. three days — Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27, 28 and 29 — at the Rivoli, and he expects sell-out audiences again. Saturday’s movie has been edited for a PG audience so middle-school students can attend. Palubiski toned down the violence and language which garnered a PG-13 rating for the version that will be shown the first two nights.

“It’s not real intense. It’s kind of Indiana Jones appropriate stuff,” he said.

As a director, Palubiski uses the name Brady Scott.

Only his father Scott, who is the producer and makes his acting debut in “Horizon,” and Jeremy Moroder, who helped create the original music score and plays a suspect, have seen the finished product.

The other actors, including his 12-year-old brother Jackson and friend Patryck Schmeling, a University of Wisconsin- Madison student who wrote the screenplay and plays the lead role, will have to wait until opening night.

“I like it to be a surprise for the actors. I like tormenting my friends. They’ll all be there opening night,” Palubiski said. “Patryck is really nervous and worried about his acting. He’ll be excited when people are laughing at his lines.”

Although people told him they liked his first movie, a sci-fi, action, time-travel story, Palubiski said it wasn’t very good.

“It was just an experiment to see if I could make a full-length movie and get it played,” he said. “I wrote, filmed, directed and played the lead character. It’s easier not acting in it. I make a cameo appearance (in ‘Horizon’).”

Palubiski said this year’s movie is better and he credits Schmeling for much of that.

“I wrote the story and sent it to him. He wrote the screenplay and during the summer break we tweaked it,” Palubiski said.

“He did an awesome job and made it what it is. There is a lot of dialogue and character development, and the acting is really good.”

The director also got help from Moroder’s father Paul, who owns Moroder Photography and is a sponsor.

After seeing last year’s movie, Moroder was so impressed that he worked with Palubiski on lighting and photography and created the movie posters. He also plays a police officer in the movie.

Palubiski describes the movie as a mystery-treasure hunt with murder and mayhem.

Schmeling portrays Pete Heywood, a young detective whose first client, played by Scott Palubiski, gives him an envelope with $500 inside for safekeeping.

The next day, Heywood’s office is ransacked by someone looking for the envelope.

Heywood’s young assistant is played by Jackson.

Erin Knapik of Grafton, a professional actress, plays Pete’s mother. Her husband Jim also has a role. Their son was in last year’s movie.

Before “Horizon,” Palubiski will show his three-minute short “Found,” which was in the Milwaukee Film Festival this year.

He also took second place, out of 600 entries, at the Green Bay Film Festival for another movie, “Shadows.”

Palubiski made his first movie, “Death on the Nile,” when he was in fifth grade.

“It wasn’t real good and nobody believed in me,” he said. “Every year, I kept working on it.

“When I got to high school, I had good friends who were actors and started making movies that we showed at home.”

Seeing his movie on the big screen last year was “awesome,” he said.

“It was an accomplishment for all my friends who acted in it and held the camera, but it wasn’t really that good,” Palubiski said.

“I went home that night and started writing my next movie.”

Palubiski also did several projects for his school, including an anti-grinding dance video for the Grafton High Student Council. He’s council president.

“Some other schools in Ozaukee County are showing it,” he said. “The kids really liked it.”

For the first day of school this year, he made a “Call Me Maybe” parody with teachers dancing and lip-sinking.

“It took a while to get them out of their comfort zone,” Palubiski said. “I told them students are going to think it’s awesome because they don’t expect their teachers to be dancing around.”

Palubiski has applied to several film schools on the east and west coasts, including the University of Southern California.

His application for USC and other schools includes a five-minute video about himself, using actors to portray him.

“I want to make movies. That’s what I want to do, and I like all aspects of it,” he said.

MOVIE DIRECTOR Brady Palubiski, a senior at Grafton High School, held the camera he used

to make “Horizon,” which will be shown Dec. 27 to 29 at the Rivoli Theatre in Cedarburg. Photo by Sam Arendt