

Big Screen Beckons For Yankton Native

Kiger Involved In Independent Film

BY LORETTA SORENSEN
 P&D Correspondent

Yankton native Beau Kiger has reached a lifelong goal: starring in a movie.

Kiger is currently on location in Valentine, Neb., where film company The Pilot's Lounge, LLC is shooting an independent film, "The Aviation Cocktail."

"The Aviation Cocktail" is a dramatic thriller set in the late 1950's," Kiger says. "It is loosely based on Colorado native and writer David Higgins family's aviation history. The story centers around three war vets dealing with rural life after World War II. I play Henry Fisher, the sheriff of a very small town who, along with other members of the community, is struck with tragedy at the story's beginning. The ensuing events revolve around how the sheriff, his brother Jack Fisher and their friend Bob Halloran and their families deal with the extraordinary circumstances."

This is the first principal role for Kiger, but he has worked on some short films in Denver, a couple of commercials, and a bit of stand in work and extra work on major features produced in Los Angeles. Kiger also recently had a bit part in a major feature film for a friend, also shot out in L.A.

The Pilot's Lounge, LLC is located in Colorado and co-owned and operated by Higgins along with Bobby Deline. Higgins and Kiger met at the Colorado Film School back in 2002. Deline met Higgins a few years back while developing another concept for a movie revolving around an outlaw/horse thief, Doc Middleton.

"Higgins and I are very close friends," Kiger said. "He told me he wrote the part of the sheriff with me in mind. He and I have been hellbent on doing a film together and ideally would like to make more films down the road and turn it into a career for both of us."

Kiger has always been interested in more than just watching movies. He says he got the acting bug in high school doing plays, but then went into the Marine Corps after graduating. It wasn't until 2001 when he moved to Colorado that he gave real consideration to acting as a career.

"Acting interests me because you get the chance to jump into someone else's shoes and take on a different perspective," Kiger says. "That can be very challenging on several different levels. My motivation for working on this film is that I get to collaborate with a great friend, Dave Higgins."

Kiger says Higgins and Deline would like to see the film in some film festivals and picked up for theatrical distribution.

"There will be some screenings in Denver, and here in Valentine as well," Kiger says. "Sometimes films take a while to get off the ground and collect steam. That's why film festivals help because they can garner good word of mouth and give the film some good publicity."

This type of film could well be a stepping stone for Kiger, although he says it will come down to how strong the performance is and how much he wants to pursue other acting gigs.

"For every Harrison Ford or Jim Carrey out there, there are thousands of starving actors working hard for the chance to make a living at this. I'm not getting any younger and there are a lot of other things I'm interested in as well. We'll see," Kiger says.

Since most of the actors involved in "The Aviation Cocktail" have not yet established their names in the film community, getting a small film like this off the ground is often a challenge. Kiger says it takes a lot of sacrifice from everyone involved.

"This is a lower budget film with no 'name' actors. The community here in Valentine has been very charitable providing shooting loca-



COURTESY PHOTO
 Yankton native Beau Kiger (forefront) and filmmaker David Higgins are producing "The Aviation Cocktail," a World War II-era film they plan to distribute to film festivals across the U.S. Much of the film was shot near Valentine, Neb.

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