

Miamisburg's Native Son Makes Movies

By: Teri Miller Barker

Little did Alex Creager know when he was just a young boy playing with a video camera, that his interest in shooting little movies would develop into a passion that would later become his career. "My grandparents had a video camera and I borrowed it," said Creager. "I had a lot of action figures, all sorts of Batman and X-Men figures, and I would frame up little shots and hold them underneath the camera." He would then create dialogue with the characters and shoot scenes in various play sets.

Fast-forward to the present, he's now pursuing his dream to be a film director, shooting movies with real people on real sets. Creager, 22, graduated from Dayton Christian High School, and recently completed his B.A. in Film/Video with a concentration on directing, from Columbia College Chicago, the largest film school in the nation.

In the summer of 2005, while a student at Columbia, Creager worked as an intern in the extra casting office for the movie, *Flags of Our Fathers*, which was directed by Clint Eastwood. During the wrap party that was held afterward, Creager saw him standing alone about five feet away. He got within two feet of Eastwood before he became too scared to approach him. "It's Dirty Harry, man, I was terrified," said Creager of his missed opportunity to actually meet the legendary actor and director. "He seemed to be a really personable guy."

An avid lover of movies, he has a collection of over 700 DVD's, and says *Jaws* is his all-time favorite. He was 6 years old when he saw the movie that came out ten years before he was even born. "I loved it because it was so many different movies in one," he explained. "*Jaws* is the one movie that I will buy every time it is re-released onto DVD or another format."

The multi-talented Creager is a creative film and video director, as well as an accomplished screenwriter and editor. "I've done a lot of short films," he stated. "*Best Friends* is my own film that I wrote and directed." *Best Friends*, a dark, clever comedy shot in Dayton, is about a groom who is at the church, only hours away from saying "I do" when he receives a disturbing phone call from his homicidal best man who is also his best friend. With the support of a drunken maid of honor and an impossible-to-please bride, the film keeps the viewer engaged until the very end. *Best Friends* is a fun, witty, short film that boasts great dialogue, a brilliant cast, and a surprise ending.

Creager, who graduated from Columbia College with honors, wishes that he could get back that naiveté he lost in film school because it has ruined the way he watches movies. "I'm jealous of the people that are scared," he said of people watching horror movies at a theater. "Just from listening to the

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music, I can tell you what's going to happen." He misses the days when he could watch a movie and simply enjoy it for the entertainment but, instead, he says he's "constantly analyzing it."

He will spend this summer in Los Angeles learning more about the various aspects of filmmaking. Columbia College only chooses a certain number of people to participate in their Semester in L.A. program, which is located in Hollywood. Creager was one of the lucky few to be chosen for the intense program that provides real-world experience and prepares students for jobs in the highly competitive entertainment industry.

Creager, a Miamisburg native, is the son of Todd and Laura Creager, and the grandson of Dwight and Vicki Jo Boyer.

To find out more about this aspiring filmmaker, be sure to visit his website at www.alexcreager.com.