

Southern Dutchess News

Arts Entertainment Events Dining Classified Sports

Life & Leisure

Fishkill film focus
is troubled 'Family Tree'

By John Darcy

FISHKILL — The dark, gnarly side of 'The Family Tree' was center stage on Sunrise Hill Road here last week, and it was not a pretty sight.

But it was all in the name of creativity as filmmaker Glen Baisley of Putnam Valley, actor Anthony Eikner of Fishkill and various cast members rehearsed and shot scenes at Eikner's home at 36 Sunrise Hill Road.

The 15-minute short will have its first viewing at the Putnam County Film and Video Festival in October, Baisley said. The filmmaker's previous effort, a psychological thriller called "Fear of the Dark," is also set to make its debut at the Putnam festival.

"The Family Tree" revolves around local resident Eikner in the lead role as a distraught man contemplating suicide in a basement apartment. The dramatic role — Eikner's first — is not really a stretch; he is well-schooled in the art of moviemaking, having earned degrees from the Institute of Studio Makeup in Hollywood. He has also written five film features and three shorts.

Also, the dark appeal of "The Family Tree" is in keeping with his affinity for films that go bump in the night. "Since I was little, all I can remember is loving horror movies," he said. "I remember staying up late to watch 'Dark Shadows' and 'Twilight Zone' and any kind of monster

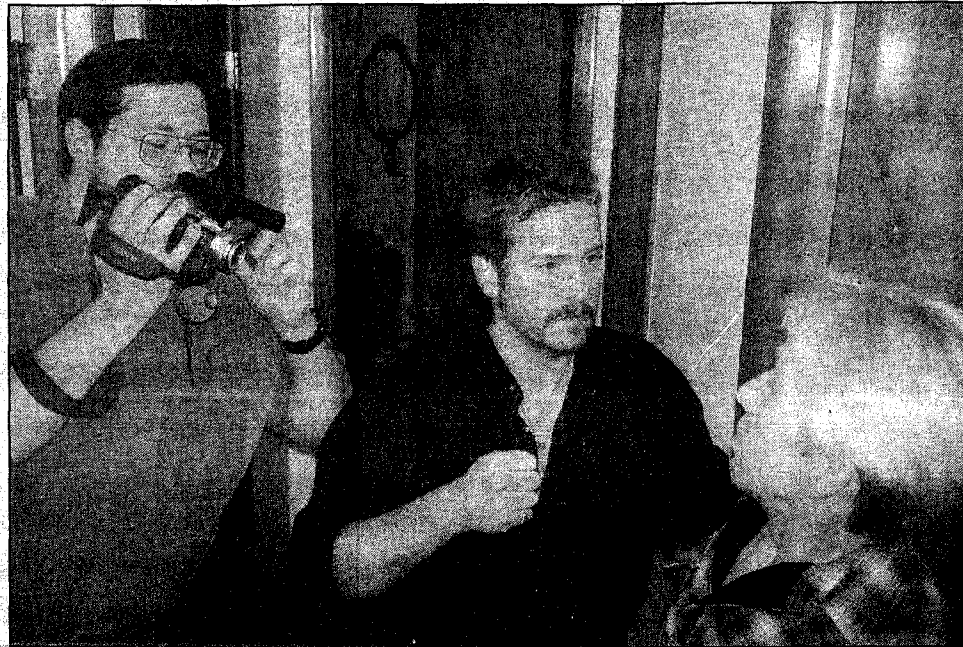
film. I was always playing with those Halloween makeup kits, doing scars and cuts' and monster faces. I took classes at Dutchess Community College so I could show what I do, which is to throw blood around on film." He adopted the moniker "Dr. Death" and his e-mail address is DocDeath00@yahoo.com.

Eikner, 33, has worked as makeup artist and special effects artist on a number of theatrical and video productions. He's also served as camera operator and lighting technician, director's assistant, sound man and props maker. He is a 1986 graduate of John Jay High School.

Director/producer Baisley said "The Family Tree" is both timeless and reflective of today's society. "The message I hope people will interpret is that we a society must take responsibility for our actions and the way we raise our children. We shouldn't be so quick to blame the media. The root of all evil starts at the family tree," he said.

Filming largely at Eikner's Fishkill home, the piece also features local actors Vicky Cooper of Wappingers Falls and Herb Smithline of Hyde Park. Rounding out the cast are Richard Redmond, Carol DiMarsico, Mike Lane, Danielle Russo, Erica Gregory, Christopher and Nicholas Spinozzi, Doug Archer and twins Mariah and Yakira Nichols.

Baisley said further information and the film and other projects is available at his production company's web site at www.LightandDark.net. He said he is also interested to establishing a Hudson Valley film group that would allow filmmakers, actors and others



Anthony (Anthony Eikner, center) attacks Gus (Richard Redmond, right) as director Glen Baisley films the action.
—photo by John Darcy

'Guys and Dolls' to be staged

POUGHKEEPSIE — Six By The Park Productions announces its summer performances of the American musical classic "Guys and Dolls". This musical is produced with permission of and royalties paid to Music Theatre International. The production is directed by Victoria Silvestri and features over 30 cast members. Performances are July 27, 28 and Aug. 2, 3, 4 at 8pm and July 29 and Aug. 5 at 3pm. All performances are at Poughkeepsie Day

Tea seminar at mansion

RHINEBECK — As we approach 2002 and the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of Wilderstein, we continue the tradition of gathering on the veranda on a summer's day to talk informally over tea and cake. This summer Wilderstein has two exceptional authors and historians to enlighten and delight our minds. The first Tea Seminar will be held on Saturday, July 14 with Dr. Bernice L. Thomas. The title of her seminar will be "The Stamp of FDR: New Deal Post Offices in the Mid-Hudson Valley". Her

Breakfast with Bossy

WAPPINGER — Come to Stony Kill Farm on Saturday, July 28 at 9am for a continental breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, coffee, juice and tea. Visit Stony Kill's farm animals, the sheep, chickens and ever popular cows. Talk to a naturalist about the omnivores, herbivores and carnivores, and see some interpretive displays. Fee \$3. Preregister by calling 831-8780, and pressing 5 for public programs.

Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center is owned and operated by the New York State Depart-

Concert at Morse estate

POUGHKEEPSIE — Locust Grove, the Samuel Morse Historic Site, presents a lawn concert sponsored by Ulster Savings Bank Sunday, July 15 at 2pm.

The Summer Concert Series sponsored by Ulster Savings Bank continues on Sunday, July 15 at 2pm. The Arabesque Trio will perform classical music, original chamber music from the early 19th century, unusual medleys and "crossover" pop and jazz arrangements. This trio of flute, bassoon, and classical guitar are sure to please. Free admission.

Call 454-4500 for more information.

Creative writing for kids

POUGHKEEPSIE — Young adults entering grades 6-9 are invited to join a creative writing workshop this summer at the Poughkeepsie Library. This free workshop is being taught by author Victoria Rose Tripp and will meet every Tuesday at 6:30pm from July 10-Aug. 21 in the meeting room of the Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie.

Participants will explore the world of writing and focus on revealing their creativity through their own words. Registration is required. For more information and to register, contact the Adriance Memorial Library, 485-3445, ext. 3304.

TRAVEL CONNECTIONS TOURS
BEGINNING SEPT 1. CASINO PRICE \$26PP

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Baisley said further information and the film and other projects is available at his production company's web site at www.LightandDark.net. He said he is also interested to establishing a Hudson Valley film group that would allow filmmakers, actors and others from Dutchess and Putnam "to network together and to exchange ideas."

Anthony (Anthony Eikner, center) in the action.

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TRAVEL CONNECTIONS TOURS

BEGINNING SEPT 1 CASINO PRICE \$26PP

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO

R/T Motorcoach, \$10 Food, \$5 Bet
Also July 30, Aug. 13, & 27

NEW Friday Night & Sunday Casino Trips
Same Bonus & Price

FOXWOODS CASINO

Mon

July 16

\$25pp

Fri

Aug. 3

Tue

Ballroom

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5 Course Prime Rib Dinner
\$19.95 + Tax + Tip

to the public from sunrise to sunset