

**SNAPSHOTS**  
**FREEZE FRAME >>**



## Hollywood, Here They Come

Woodbury's had its share of aspiring actors, but this month we've tracked down two Woodburians reveling in some 'reel' success.

photos courtesy of Josh Craig and Kent Johnson

**1 JOSH CRAIG**  
**PRODUCER AND ACTOR, *THE MONSTER OF PHANTOM LAKE***  
Woodbury resident Josh Craig first got into theater during his sophomore year at South High in Minneapolis, around 1990. He and writer-director of *The Monster of Phantom Lake* Chris Mihm met in band class.

Through the years, Craig and Mihm played around with script-writing, acting and directing, but it wasn't until *Phantom* that any of their ideas really seemed to pan out. "The filming took us the majority of last summer's weekends," Craig says. "Basically the whole process from Chris's first plot pitch to our world premiere at The Heights movie theater on March 9 took just about one year."

A low-budget production, *Phantom* was filmed almost entirely in Woodbury with props purchased on Ebay and at local thrift stores. "We didn't have any

grants or financial backers, so aside from buying the cast snacks each day and making sure we had all the equipment and props we needed, there really wasn't much to do on the days we were filming," he says. Craig says the City of Woodbury was incredible to work with: "As long as we didn't disturb park property or do anything indecent or illegal we could do pretty much whatever we wished."

**2 KENT JOHNSON**  
**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF REBEL FILMWORKS, *H-E-N-R-Y***

Kent Johnson has lived in Woodbury since 1998, well before his love of films took an interesting twist after coming home from a film "utterly disappointed, and thinking 'I could do something better than that garbage,'" he says. "I have no instruction in film, but I did research and in 2000 incorporated Rebel Filmworks."

Multiple screenplays and ideas flowed from 2000 through 2005, when the idea for *H-E-N-R-Y* took off. The short film was shot at the historic Stillwater Prison. "We started in Rochester, but to get into a federal prison takes an act of Congress," Johnson says. "So we contacted the Minnesota Department of Corrections, and they went above and beyond the call of duty to help us." The film debuted Feb. 21 at The Uptown Theater.

Johnson was the primary financier of the \$40,000 project. The Edina native has a real affinity for the arts and Minnesota's potential to be the "Hollywood of the Midwest. This is my night job; I wouldn't have gotten to this point if I wasn't passionate about the film talent in the area," he says.

Editorial intern **Janelle Conley** contributed to this piece.