



Members of the cast and crew discuss the direction of the film on the set of *Love/Hate*

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# Small local film has big aspirations

*Independent movie almost done after months of work*

By Stefan Strangman

An independent dating comedy called *Love/Hate* being created in Edmonton by a local film company has high hopes for success as filming wraps up and post-production begins.

*Love/Hate*, the brainchild of the writing duo Cooper Bibaud and Danny McDougall, is scheduled to come out in the spring of 2010. The film follows three couples at various stages in their respective relationships, and offers a funny glimpse at modern dating. Even with its subtle pop culture references and quirky humour, the writing team feels that there is something in it for everyone.

"It's for any girl and guy who ever experienced any love or heartbreak," explains McDougall.

The idea began in the spring of 2008, and after a Fringe Festival play and several other films, *Love/Hate* was born. According to the film's

creators, the idea for the film and the majority of its jokes comes from their time working late shifts at "Toys R' Us". From there, it grew into a collaborative effort between the two writers, and after their first project, a sci-fi picture, was scrapped, they created the script for *Love/Hate*.

As of yet, the production has gone without financial assistance, leaving the creators alone to be the sole financiers of the endeavor. "We've literally poured our life savings into this," says Bibaud.

So far, the pair haven't applied for any grants, but applications for a post-production grants are in the works. Family and friends of the cast and crew provide the sets, and the actors are a mix of professionals or friends and volunteers, with no promise of getting paid. They all responded to a casting call, which received responses from actors across the nation.

Even so, the cast and crew of this small feature film are trying their best to ensure it's success, working sometimes as long as 30 hours. "Everyone is busting their ass," says McDougall. "It's been hectic all around."

Grants may be hard to come by, according to Statistics Canada's latest report on cultural funding in Canada, which shows that only 3.6 per cent of federal cultural expenditures went to video and film expenditures, and almost 20 per cent of total cultural expenditures went to grants.

Even with the film's low budget, director Andrew Silke says that the team wants this film to be distinct from other Canadian films of the same type. "We're marketing it like an American film," says Silke. "We wanted to reach a broader audience... and make it look as mainstream as it can." In order to reach that broader audience, they are planning on taking the film to international film festivals across North America as well as producing copies on Blu-ray and DVD.

The future of this small venture seems uncertain, but the creators say that they hope the film gets a few laughs either way.

"We just want to entertain people for the time they spend watching it," says Bibaud. "We're not expecting a revolutionary Oscar winner."