



Special to Record Publishing Co. Pictured is the promotional banner for "The Road to Sundance: On a shoestring budget."

by April Helms

Special Products Editor

It's a series of episodes about a director who is making a movie, and creating a film diary of his filming experiences.

That's the best way to describe "The Road to Sundance: On a shoestring budget," the latest film project from Matt Pallotta of Red Duck Pictures.

Pallotta, who lives in Cuyahoga Falls and is a Woodridge High School graduate, currently has five parts of the film diary available through YouTube and his Web site www.RoadtoSundance.com, and is busy making more. There are four episodes total with the fourth episode being a two-parter.

"It's about a group of artists and the sacrifices they have to make with a short budget," Pallotta said. "This is a mockumentary style of film, kind of like 'The Office.'

If there's one thing Pallotta knows, it's working on a tight budget.

"Everyone is doing this on their spare time and out of their own pocket," he said.

The series focuses on George "Lucas" Palmer, played by Cleveland resident Bobby Thomas. Palmer, a starry-eyed dreamer, decides to act on his ambition to make an independent film which would be shown at the Sundance Film Festival. He finds his assistant director, Parker (played by Mentor resident Andrew Goldsworth), a college student whose primary goal is to secure a good internship so he can finally graduate

"It's been great," said Goldsworth of the filming experience. "We get together and come up with the story and plot."

His character in the show, Goldsworth said, "comes to realize that no one knows what they are doing in this film, but he has to go along with it to get that credit."

One challenge with working on "Road to Sundance" is the size of the cast, which is quite large, said Thomas.

"As the cast grows and gets bigger, planning a shooting schedule is tough because everyone has their own life," Thomas said. "But so far, it's working out well. We've been able to keep the project moving."

Then we would post the next one. But we agreed it would take about five episodes to really get to know the characters."

Each episode takes about two weeks to produce, with two weeks additional for post production work, Pallotta said.

Pallotta, in an ironic twist, also is in the film, playing Palmer's "prima donna lead actor."

Pallotta said he hopes to pick up an online following.

"I'd love to get the audience to watch the show and get lost in this world, and enjoy the characters," Pallotta said. "On a big scale, on the high end, I would love to see us get a sponsorship so we can costume and get paid for it."

The big dream, of course, would be to make "Road" into a television show, Pallotta said.