

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member News Notice

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT is a focused, feature-oriented segment of PoV developed to showcase the work of select, active Film Society filmmakers who represent the promise and talent of Austin film. **A complete listing of all AFS member news, as well as instructions on how to post your news, is now available online** by visiting our website at WWW.AUSTINFILM.ORG. Website submissions are accepted from active AFS members only, however all users can view the profiles once approved and posted online (news reviewed every Fri.).

Submissions to MEMBER SPOTLIGHT are independent of direct submissions to our website. You must post in both places separately. To submit an entry to PoV: You must be an active AFS member, submit a 150-word description of film-related work, have one to two 300dpi images available (including a photo of yourself), and your entry must be received by 5 P.M. the day of the deadline. Send submissions to news@austinfilm.org. Deadline for consideration in the next edition of PoV is **June 1**.



“We made our first short COUCHES, TABLES, AND DARTS almost on a dare.” JIM STEDMAN

A true testament to persistence, Jim Stedman and wife Danna wrote screenplays together for over 12 years before making their first short COUCHES, TABLES, AND DARTS. In 1999 the couple heard about an Independent Film Channel contest with the following parameters: make a short five minutes or less about dating. After convincing their friends to act in the piece, the Stedmans rushed to shoot and edit it in a mere five days to make the IFC deadline. The short went on to win the contest and the Stedmans got to watch their first attempt at filmmaking broadcast nationally on the Independent Film Channel.

After the success of their 12-year-coming first short, the Stedmans decided to pick up the pace. In the last three years they have sold

two more shorts to IFC including LAST CIGARETTE, and BUY 1, GET 5 FREE. However, they do not limit themselves to short films. They also find time to shoot corporate videos, commercials and other entertainment projects.

Stedman credits Richard Linklater as a significant influence on his career. While working in LA and trying to sell screenplays, he saw Linklater's SLACKER for the first time. “It made us realize that you didn't need a big studio to make a movie,” says Stedman.

05MIN PRODUCTIONS FILMOGRAPHY

2003 CHARLES GILLPATRICK: FRONT DESK CLERK
 2002 JASON AND THE HIGH COST OF ELECTRICITY
 2002 KIDCHEF
 2001 LOVE AND SURVEILLANCE
 2001 TEMPTING DAVID
 2000 BUY 1, GET 5 FREE
 2000 LAST CIGARETTE
 1999 COUCHES, TABLES AND DARTS

The epiphany was a turning point in Stedman's career allowing him to stop focusing on selling scripts to outside production companies and start working to shoot his material himself. He began working in multimedia to educate himself on the digital technology that would eventually be a vital element of his film success.

Shortly thereafter, the Stedman family re-located to Austin. Being UT alumni and wanting a more kid-friendly environment for their child were their original motives, but Austin proved to be a launching pad for the Stedmans' film careers as well. “Digital video gave us the economics to shoot our own material and Austin gave us access to an incredible filmmaking talent pool,” Stedman commented.

Stedman's latest short JASON AND THE HIGH COST OF ELECTRICITY made it to the Top 250 of the Project Greenlight contest. It also is currently in the top ten of the Chrysler/Hypnotic/Universal Studios Million Dollar Film contest — which translates to a couple of free plane tickets to NYC in May to shoot a short on Chrysler's dime and a mention in VARIETY — and the two Stedmans are already busy writing a short script for this exciting phase of the competition.

And there are even bigger plans for the future. “We've been talking with L.A. agencies about representation. We're also working on several corporate video projects and writing a feature script,” says Stedman.

Currently, LAST CIGARETTE and BUY 1, GET 5 FREE air on the Independent Film Channel. To view more of Stedman's work visit: WWW.05MIN.COM.

Laura O' Keeffe