

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR | cont'd

Q.) Why was it important for the movie to be shot in Arizona and that the crew/cast be from Arizona?

A.) I've been living in Arizona for ten years now after living in Europe and Australia for a few years. I really like this beautiful state with its incredible array of sceneries (it's not all desert!) and its rich heritage in Native-American and Hispanic cultures. I really believe that Arizona, under strong professional and government leadership, could become one of the major film hubs not only for the U.S., but also internationally.

Q.) Why use high-end equipment (Red Camera, e.g.) and run the production like a feature film?

A.) I consider this film an important calling card, not just for myself, but also for the entire cast and crew who dedicated their "free" time, energy and passion to this project. Remember, this film is the "short" version of a feature-length script and it was important for me to ensure the highest quality possible throughout the project. The high-level of professionalism assumed by everyone on the set for 12 days straight, provided great visibility among other professionals in Arizona. This even led to business partners supporting us above and beyond the call of duty, such as providing donations in props and services. One investor, after spending a day with us on the set, wrote me another check. You know who you are and I thank you as the additional money was indeed very welcome! Of course, there's always room for improvement – and I have many notes ready for the next production.



REMI AND ACTORS DUSTIN JAMES AND JUDY LEBEAU AT THE PHOTO GALLERY



SOUND ENGINEER GERARDO UMANO DISCUSSES NOTES WITH REMI

Q.) Who has influenced you the most in your writing and directing?

A.) Alfred Hitchcock has always been my favorite filmmaker as he truly understood how to create a unique ambience and mood with his stories, characters, and lean editing. I also have great admiration for two other directors, David Lynch and David Fincher; the former for his off-balance storytelling and powerful imagery; the latter for his raw cinematographic style when portraying the dark side of life. However, probably my most important artistic influence is Salvador Dali – and not just because we share the same birthday. Even though he was a painter, his creativity and vision has influenced my ideas and writing. The supernatural and surreal aspect in Out Of Focus has certainly led to a very Daliesque style in the design of the special effects.

