

Jeff Kirkendall's Thoughts For The Month Column

Thoughts, Opinions, Reviews, Commentary & More!

Hello and Welcome! My name is Jeff Kirkendall and I'm an independent filmmaker and actor from the Upstate New York area. This is the section of the Very Scary Productions website where I write about topics related to independent filmmaking, digital video production, acting, movies in general, horror movies in particular, my own indie movies, as well as anything and everything related or in between.

I decided to create this commentary page because I find that I often come across things that either interest me, excite me, intrigue me, or maybe just bug me. Any topic related to movies and cinema is fair game, from the most mainstream to the most controversial. For example I'll often read about movie projects that I have a strong interest in or opinion on, for one reason or another. This page gives me a forum to discuss these things. It's all about discussion and furthering understanding of our pop culture. Anyone who has feedback concerning what I have to say here, feel free to contact me (see the contact link at <http://www.veryscaryproductions.com/>).

I'd also like to point out that the following is just my opinion, and everyone is free to agree or disagree with what I have to say. Enjoy, and to all the Indies out there: Keep on Filming!

SUBJECT: Movie Review: ***More Than Friends?*** (an independent short film) – December 2004

This month I'd like to review a picture which was produced in Upstate New York's Capital Region. * ***More Than Friends?*** is a 26-minute digital video movie from Albany, New York-based Knightsfall Productions. It was written and directed by independent filmmaker Jeff Burns and is billed as "a comedy about a guy, a girl, and a frisbee". The movie tells the story of a college student named Alex who comes to realize he's in love with his best friend Ashley. Since he is unable to tell Ashley his true feelings face to face, he decides to send her an E-mail instead. He then decides it was a mistake and gets his friends Kevin and Sarah to help him break into the campus computer center and delete the E-mail. After all this will Alex and Ashley become romantically involved? Will their friendship last? Or will an attractive Frisbee-throwing girl on campus become the object of Alex's affection?

More Than Friends? presents an interesting, well-acted, and nicely photographed little tale. Actors Eric Rogers, Erinn Selkis, Joe Starr, Risa Sarachan, and Katherine Rose Varno are all very good in their roles, while Director of Photography Keith Andrews demonstrates first-rate shot composition. The movie also has a pop-music score that complements the scenes very well while never being distracting. I particularly liked the music chosen for the scenes where Alex and his friends break into the computer lab. It really added to the lighthearted comedic tone of the proceedings. At times both touching and funny ***More Than Friends?*** is a very believable slice-of-life type dramatic comedy that proves to be a very accomplished piece of work from director Jeff Burns. The movie is available now on VHS and DVD. The DVD includes extras such as deleted scenes and cast / crew commentary.

* As I mentioned in the January 2004 TFTM column, I like to categorize these types of micro-budget digital movies as underground movies, the category into which my own productions also fall.