Woodshed- Short Film

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A short film shot this week in Bowling Green was like déjà vu for three WKU alumni.

Amy Bingham caught up with the lead actors and the director of “Woodshed” in this week’s “View from the Hill.”

“Woodshed” is a coming of age film set in Kentucky in the early 90’s when grunge music first arrived on the scene. A WKU film professor wrote the script and called on two of his college buddies, who happen to be among WKU’s most prominent acting alumni, to star.

Travis Newton \ Director, “Woodshed”

Matt Long \ Actor, WKU Alum

Derek Wilson \ Actor, WKU Alum

This week a barn in the Rich Pond community was transformed into a movie set.

“We were lucky enough to find the perfect barn, we found the perfect convenience store and got a nice location for the driving scene so it all came together.”

A three day shoot that took months to prepare for was a stroll down memory lane for the director and two lead actors.

“The three of us, Matt Long, Derek Wilson and myself all went to WKU together, all three theatre majors.”

“When we graduated we all ended up in New York together, actually shared an apartment together in Austoria Queens.”

Travis went on to film school while Matt found success on television and Derek started working on Broadway but they’ve stayed in touch.

This short film, “Woodshed”, was a chance for them to reconnect on a professional level.

“I wrote this with them in mind, the characters were something I wanted to see them play so way back when I was thinking of writing a feature, these are the characters I wrote specifically to them.”

Once Newton received a grant to fund the production, he called on his old friends to come and star in it.

“I said sure it will be a blast to come back and see everybody and come to Western. It’s such a quick trip and it’s summer time so I’m not getting to see professors so much but it’s been great.”

“It’s a good way to come visit family. My parents still live here. I’m staying with them while I’m here.”

Newton says he could easily elaborate on the script if the film catches on.

“The intention of the film is to screen at festivals but also to be a spring board for a feature so the characters and the situation can be expanded into a full length film.”

Whatever happens, it’s clear these college pals will continue supporting each others careers.

“It’s really cool to come back home and make something with friends. It just is.”

“It’s nostalgic and just like old times. You kind of pick up where you left off.”

Both Wilson and Long say the advice and training they received at WKU is what has allowed them to continue to be working actors into their mid-30’s.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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