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Allen plans to film parts of new movie in hometown

COURIER STAFF REPORT

Madison native Christopher Allen says a film he is producing about World War II will use Madison as the main backdrop.

The history of "In My Life" dates back to 1997, when Allen filmed a 45-minute version of the story in Jefferson County.

After previewing to select audiences, Allen shopped the film in Hollywood, gaining the attention of Disney Studios.

The story centers on the character of Mike Rizzio, a modern-day

gangster who is sent to the emergency room with a life-threatening gunshot wound. An old man dying of heart failure lies in the next bed. A divine phenomenon transposes the gangster's soul into the life of an old man in 1937. During a three-minute struggle to save both lives, Rizzio is living out the old man's vivid, poignant life.

The supernatural episode leaves Rizzio with every memory and moment the old man witnesses, altering his life for the better.

On July 17, Allen will be scouting

locations throughout Jefferson County with director of photography David Cook who has worked in Hollywood for more than 27 years. His credits include "The Water Boy," "Scary Movie 2" and "Edward Scissorhands."

Many locations used on Allen's first film "The Living Years," which was filmed and produced in Madison in 1995, will be revisited on July 17.

Allen is planning the exterior shots for Jefferson County with the interiors in Indianapolis.

"I kept scouting locations through-

out the Indianapolis area, and just couldn't find anything as visually majestic and enthralling as my hometown," Allen said. "The search kept inching closer to southern Indiana, and that is when I finally realized that it belonged here," he said.

Allen traveled to New York City and Chicago earlier this year to complete casting for the two lead characters. Efforts are also in place to cast two "named" stars to the project

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- Chris Allen

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for supporting roles. "Having a star attached doesn't guarantee a film's success, however it does add a significant amount of credibility in the marketing process," Allen said. Allen said he was contacting agents for Christopher Walken, Robert Duvall and Jane Seymour.

No filming dates have been set, Allen said. "We're just pre-production now, lining up crew and resources, but I definitely see this happening within the next year."

"It always comes down to story, story, story. And I think that audiences are tired of the usual lack-luster films these days. You can have an all-star cast and still flop because it wasn't a story people genuinely cared about," Allen said.

"When I wrote 'In My Life,' I asked myself 'is this a film people will be watching in 50 years?' Absolutely. This is a story that celebrates a simple way of life that has been sadly forgotten. And what a better place to tell a story of family, God and love than in Madison, Indiana, my hometown," Allen said.

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