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**HEADLINE:** Indie Film: Making a film is the fun stuff, what follows is real life

### Source Website

By DENNIS PERKINS

You're a local low/no-budget **filmmaker**. You've written your screenplay, you've found your actors, your crew. You've bought or borrowed (or borrowed to buy) your equipment. You work around other people's schedules and grab snatches of filming on weekends, late nights, whenever you can. You scrounge locations, pay for everything out of pocket, and hold fast to the dream against every conceivable obstacle, every doubt.

### COMING TO LOCAL SCREENS

WMEA-TV

mpbn.net

Monday: "**Not As I Pictured**." It's not often I advise you to stay home and watch TV, but this moving documentary about acclaimed photojournalist **John Kaplan**'s battle with cancer promises some serious uplift. In addition, 10,000 copies of the **film** are being given away free to those affected by cancer. Go to [notasipictured.org](http://notasipictured.org) for details.

FRONTIER CINEMA & CAFE

explorefrontier.com

Monday to Thursday: "The Man Who Fell to Earth." I have no idea why the Frontier's showing the uncut **director**'s version of Nicholas Roeg's bizarre sci-fi cult **film** about David Bowie's androgynous alien on Earth trying to save his parched planet and being sexily corrupted. But I salute them.

And then your **movie** is done.

But what happens now?

That's the question Portland **filmmaker** Allen Baldwin is still trying to answer about his **film** "Up Up Down Down" — almost four years after he started it.

"Wow," says a taken-aback Baldwin when asked how long ago he began his second feature. "I really can't think of that."

"Up Up Down Down," an indie comedy/drama about a young couple (Erik Moody and Kristina Balbo) whose aimlessly amiable relationship is tested by an unexpected pregnancy, finally wrapped last year. Since then, it's had its test screening at the Nickelodeon and made the festival circuit (including the KahBang and Lewiston-Auburn **film** festivals) to some acclaim. And on Saturday, the **film** will make its DVD premiere with a screening at the St. Lawrence Arts Center ([stlawrencearts.org](http://stlawrencearts.org)).

So, is that the end of the line?

"I'm done," Baldwin said. "At, least my wife says I'm done. As I was preparing it for the DVD, she asked, 'Does this mean you'll never go back to editing or changing it anymore?'" and she gave me a look. She's seen it like, 17 times. They say you're never done with a manuscript until the editor pries it from your hands. It's been

a lot of time and effort, and I always think I might be able to make it better, but it's time to move on."

That highlights a hidden, final challenge for the truly independent *filmmaker*. "It's a boon and a curse that there's no producer yelling at me that it's done," he said.

Of course, independence also teaches another, often dispiriting lesson: "There's a whole other business involved once the *film* is done. It involves a lot of selling yourself, which is not necessarily what you got into it for. You work your butt off, and now all the fun stuff is over. Now every ticket you sell is because of hitting the pavement."

So has it all been worth it? "Ideally, we'd play at Sundance and sell for a million, but that's sort of a myth," Baldwin said. "The concept of doing it had to be worthwhile in and of itself. Every Portland *filmmaker* I know agrees, I think. At our level, it can't be gone into with the idea that it's going to be picked up and sold."

Baldwin's next move includes raising his baby daughter, Nora, writing screenplays and working on producing more (including the upcoming "Damnationland 2011"). "But," he says, "my weekends have become so precious with (Nora) that I just can't see giving them up shooting all night."

As for "Up Up Down Down"? "I'll sell the DVDs, get them into Videoport and Bull Moose," Baldwin says. "DVD is sort of the last place a *movie* goes, but that's it."

He does concede that the *film* is still being submitted to festivals. It screens at the SNOB (Somewhat North of Boston) *Film* Festival in Concord, N.H., next week.

It seems that *filmmakers* just don't give up that easily.

Dennis Perkins is a freelance writer who lives in Portland.

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*Highlights: film, Film, filmmaker, Not As I Pictured, John Kaplan, director, movie, filmmakers*