

# POUDRE GRADS FINISH FILM SET IN REGION

BY TAYLOUR NELSON

The Coloradoan, July 21, 2007

When Ethan Holbrook was compiling a list of items he would need this summer, one kept appearing.

“I wrote down ‘blood’ for almost every list I wrote,” he said. “Once, I think I wrote it down twice.”

Blood, or at least the kind made from corn syrup and red food coloring, is important when you’re filming a movie about a vampire-slaying woman named Fran.

Holbrook, who graduated from Poudre High School this year, and his friends are making a movie this summer, filming in and around Fort Collins, with the help of local actors.

The film, tentatively called *Untitled Search for God*, was written by Holbrook and directed by 2006 PHS alum Andrew Gingerich, who just completed his first year as a film student at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. The film is expected to be released next summer and shown at Lyric Cinema Café in Old Town.

Holbrook and Gingerich met in high school when both participated in a writing group.

“(The plot) is very complicated,” Gingerich said. “John Porter is an ordinary guy who meets a girl named Fran only to discover she has 16 severed heads in her car and claims they’re all vampires, but there are some questions as to the validity of that. Meanwhile, there is this crooked accountant for the mob who has embezzled money from them, and the mob is trying to track him down.

“And then, there’s a man in a dog suit who believes he is God.”

The cast and crew worked 10-hour days for three weeks filming at a mobile home park near LaPorte, in an empty warehouse on North College Avenue and at a local church. A few scenes requiring a wooded area were filmed in Wyoming.

“For those three weeks, I slept, ate and lived this movie,” Gingerich said. “We did this as fast as we could have possibly gone.”

With the actors and crew voluntarily working on the



Poudre High School graduates Ethan Holbrook and Andrew Gingerich, right, recently completed a movie, all of which was filmed in Fort Collins.

**PHOTO: HARDY WILSON/THE COLORADOAN**

film, the biggest expenses for Gingerich were a plane ticket for the director of photography, a new tripod and the \$70 dog suit purchased on eBay, of course. The crew also was allowed to work on location in Fort Collins at no expense. In all, Gingerich estimated the film cost \$3,000 to produce.

Gingerich said he has been interested in films since he was 10 years old, when his parents had a black and white video recorder that had to be attached to a VCR. He and his friends since have started Exploding Goldfish Films, which produces short films, including *Everything You Need To Know About Farming In The 1850s-1890s In 30 Seconds Or Less* and *Two Minutes With God*.

The mob boss character in *Untitled Search* is played by Rick Ney, a photography teacher at PHS. Ney will be teaching a new film class at PHS this fall.

Ney decided to be involved in the project when one of his students asked him to participate in the film.

“He guilted me into it,” Ney said. “He said, ‘You should really be part of a movie since you will be teaching a film class,’ so I did it.”

But Ney said his career as an actor started and ended with this film.

“I don’t want to be an actor; I’ve never wanted to be an actor,” he said.