

From Cincinnati to L.A., Cornhole movie swings forward

Mockumentary pokes fun at those whom take an obsession too far

By **Jessie Gridley**

CINCINNATI — “Cornhole: The Movie,” a mockumentary filmed in Cincinnati, has cult classic written all over it, says David Pittinger, a Cincinnati who plays a cornhole tournament fanatic.

food table at a family reunion he went to last year in Cincinnati. The idea began brewing, and after attending the Easter Seals cornhole tournament last year, he knew what he had to do.

“I think I saw two fistfights over rule violations,” says Clarke, who adds that this film focuses

expecting to be an extra and was selected to play a cornhole tournament participant sponsored by Dewey’s Pizza.

“It was almost like a family,” Pittinger says of the experience. “The storyline and characters are just a blast.”

The cameras have packed up

and left Cincinnati. Now, the film’s fate rests in the hands of Elaine and Tim, as they intricately piece together over 60 hours of footage taken here in the Queen City. Don’t worry; the two have cornhole on hand in Los Angeles, just in case they need to battle out any marital arguments

during the editing phase.

“Some of the movies that aren’t big-budget movies turn out to be cult classics,” says Pittinger.

For more information, visit www.cornholethemovie.com.

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Lydia Hall/Downtowner

Cornhole, above, is a traditional game in Cincinnati.

Say the word “cornhole” in Fargo, N.D., and they might think you just watched a *Beavis and Butthead* marathon, but Cincinnatians young and old understand. They embrace this backyard classic that is as common at a barbecue as a hamburger.

Director Tim Clarke, a Cincinnati native, says the film is in the post-production phase in Los Angeles, and he has hopes of submitting the film to the Sundance Film Festival. From festivals, Clarke hopes that a production company will pick it up.

Either way, a big Cincinnati theatrical release is planned sometime in 2008, says producer and actress Elaine Mello-Clarke, citing that “Cornhole” could not have been made in any other city than Cincinnati.

The twin boards with one hole each can be spotted on sidewalks, in the workplace break area, at bars, retirement communities and keg parties. They can even be found in a mini-table version with bags the size of a bar of soap.

This fascination with the bean-bag sport is why Clarke decided, along with Mello-Clarke, his wife, and Producer Kent Bernhard, to create “Cornhole: The Movie.”

Clarke says the cornhole boards were just as popular as the

in on those cornhole-lovers who take their game close to obsession.

“We all have something that is our hobby. When we take it a little too far — it’s sad and comical,” he says of the mockumentary.

The film follows four teams to a fictitious national championship, set in a transformed warehouse in West Chester Twp.

Mello-Clarke puts her acting skills to work as the hard-core player, Gina “The Guns” Rosenstones.

“She’s six-months pregnant and she’s just a badass,” says Mello-Clarke.

Professional cornhole champs, yes there is such a thing, were on site to perform cornhole stunts at the director’s beckon and call. Their shots will then be edited in with the actors’ performances.

“Tim would say, ‘OK, I need this bag to do X-Y-Z’ and then they would do it,” she says in awe of the strategic throws.

Kristen Erwin, executive director of the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky Film Commission, says, “I know everyone had a blast working there. If it is this big here, I can only imagine what it will be like in other parts of country.”

Overall, an estimated 400 Cincinnatians responded to casting calls for “Cornhole.” Of those, Pittinger, 43, showed up

bitter bridesmaid BASH

September 13, 2007

The newly opened Bridal Studio in the Covington Wedding District will host the “Bitter Bridesmaid Bash”, a fundraiser for Kenzie’s Closet.

Kenzie’s Closet provides prom dresses for high school seniors who cannot otherwise afford them.

6-7 PM: Registration

Arrive at The Bridal Studio at 714 Madison Ave. in Covington, Ky. wearing your donation dress (don’t forget to wear shorts underneath—you’ll be dressless at the end of the night!). By committing to donate your dress at the end of the evening, your \$10 admission fee will be waived.

7-10 PM: Pub Crawl

Your admission will get you drink specials at the following area bars: Avenue Lounge, Backstage Cafe, Clique Lounge, Deadwood Saloon & Cafe and Keefer’s Irish Pub. Community Yellow Cab will be providing transportation from bar to bar.



10-11 PM: Prizes

We will gather at Backstage Cafe to raffle prizes and donate dresses. Changing stations will be available, and everyone who donates a dress will be given a t-shirt in exchange at the end of the night. But before you turn in your dress, be sure to grab a free picture with your friends in our photobooth, donated by Say Cheese! The first 100 guests will also receive a bag filled with gifts from our various sponsors.

For more information, or to

RSVP send an email to bbbash@the-bridal-studio.com

Event sponsors include: Aviva Events, BlueBird Photography, Brideface, Cincinnati-Dayton Bride and Groom Planner, CincyChic.com, Community Yellow Cab, Courtenay Lambert Floral, Downtowner, the Pulse of the city, Letter Heads Ltd., Maize Music, and Say Cheese Photobooth.