



Troy Simon: Movie Star



Western Hills driver to be an extra in "Cornhole: the Movie"

Troy Simon wants to be a king. He is traveling to Las Vegas in January to take part in the King of Cornhole competition. Top prize: \$5,000 and a whole lot of bragging rights. But that is small potatoes compared to where cornhole has already taken him – to Hollywood! Or at least to Milford to shoot scenes as a lead extra in *Cornhole: the Movie*.

For those not from Cincinnati's West Side – where the game originated – cornhole is a game in which players take turns pitching small bags filled with corn at a raised platform with a hole in the far end. A bag in the hole scores 3 points; one on the platform scores 1 point. Players toss from about 27 feet away and the first to reach 21 wins. Points cancel each other out in each round, so if Team 1 scores three points and Team 2 scores two points, then Team 1 earns the one point difference.

The entire movie is being shot on a \$20,000 budget. The director, Tim Clarke, is originally from Indian Hill. He is using product placement and sponsorships to help fill in the enormous gap in funding. He and his wife, co-producer Elaine Mello-Clarke, along with producer Kent Bernhard, are also getting creative with production, using hundreds of local volunteers as actors and extras. Editing and production work is being volunteered by students from Brown-Mackie College, and local bars and night spots provide free locations for shooting.

Troy found out about the opportunity when he saw a local news story on television about the movie, which included information about the open casting call for extras. He went to the casting call in May. He got there at 5a.m. and was the first person in line for the audition. With that kind of dedication, the director knew he had a star on his hands and signed Troy up as one of the lead extras.

Troy's character is a professional cornhole player. Although he doesn't have any speaking parts he is in much of the film, along with his brother Tim and his wife Judy. Troy was on set for four 12 hour days while they shot the movie.

Clarke hopes he can finish his film by September 25, in time to submit it for the Sundance Film Festival. The festival will take place in January 2008.



Submitted by Nate Davidson

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