

Indie film team heads to N.Y.

Vancouver crew to take part in 24-hour filmmaking contest

By David Spaner
Movie Reporter

Vancouver will be trying to take Manhattan this weekend.

A Vancouver team is among the 24 finalists (out of more than 280 entries) participating in the 24-hour filmmaking contest New York City Midnight Movie Making Madness.

It started last spring when aspiring Vancouver director Anthony Wong — who's made a series of shorts the past few years — read on the Internet about the New York event.

He quickly assembled a six-member team — producer Peter Brady, production manager Kerstin Ide, actors Robert Egger and Ken Lawson, and crew member David Dautzenberg.

Contest organizers provided the team with a theme and genre, and two weeks later they had completed *Detour*, a 10-minute drama about a homeless man.

Wong learned on Sept. 23 that *Detour* was a first-round winner.

"Then Anthony phoned us all," says Brady, "and we were jumping up and down — half in disbelief."

The team and one from Toronto were the only non-Americans to sur-

vive the first round.

Now, the Vancouver group is settled into Greenwich Village for the contest, which runs all of Saturday's 24 hours, with a grand prize of \$10,000 US. Again, they'll be provided with a theme and a genre, although the shortened time-frame will make the process somewhat more frantic.

Egger was eager to leave for New York, where he's visited before.

"I love it," he says. "It's part of the reason I said yes to it. If there's anywhere you could muster the energy to do something in 24 hours, it would be New York City. It's my favourite city in the world."

Adds Wong: "Robert has a one-way ticket, actually."

Wong, who's a lawyer in another life, says he would like nothing more than to work as a writer-director.

"I love being able to tell a story with images. And it's just so much fun shooting with friends."

Wong and friends have formed a tight ensemble that will team again for a comic feature he's planning to direct next year.

They see themselves as part of the city's emerging, supportive independent film scene.

"Totally," says Egger. "Vancouver's just a great breeding ground for creativity now. The U.S. stuff goes up and down but the home-grown stuff just keeps growing and growing."

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Wayne Loldenfroast — The Province

From left: Robert Egger, Peter Brady, director Anthony Wong and Kerstin Ide are part of the six-member filmmaking group that's on its way to try to take Manhattan.