

LO-FI SCI-FI FEATURE FILM FINDS KEY INFESTORS, OFFERS FREE DOWNLOAD

TORONTO -- April 26, 2007 -- Swallow their pitch... live in their future.

There's a new, chewable nanotechnology that lets you take photos with your eyes, cures cancer and eliminates body odour. But the early adopters are realizing they got extra "features" they didn't count on. And no one told them once they spread through the bloodstream, it's harder to uninstall than your average computer virus.

INFEST WISELY is a feature length movie in seven episodes, each with different directors but all written by novelist Jim Munroe. Munroe met the six other directors through his Novel Amusements project, an annual DVDzine tagged "unapologetically lo-fi, inventive short video" by the Toronto Star. "I didn't want to work with just one of them for an entire feature," he said, "It seemed too big of an imposition. Plus, each of them had a special talent or ability I was excited to write for."

"It was awesome," Munroe enthused. "Jon made a fake ATM machine from scratch. Kirby shot a sex scene the rest of us were too nervous to. Craig crafted a bunch of amazing special effects. Chris staged a punk rock show. Rose got us a tiny city to rampage through. And Benny did some chase scene stunts with his crazy art-bikes."

Munroe wrote the seven episodes to be stories unto themselves, with intertwining characters. But watched together they chart the social and cultural changes wreaked by the tiniest product in history.

While Munroe is primarily a novelist, his co-producer Craig Macnaughton brought his considerable film background to the project. His comedy musical "Dog Given Rights" (with co-director Chris McCawley) won Kevin Spacey's Triggerstreet.com competition for which they received an award at Sundance. "It can be a slog raising the funds for even a low-budget film," he said. "Luckily, being a no-budget movie, we didn't have to deal with that."

The resources of the seven directors were considerable. "I wrote around the resources we had, rather than what we wished we had," said Munroe. Friends offered workplaces as sets, cameras and lights were shared, people's attics were raided for props, music was donated, and everyone worked for free. And since it didn't cost anything to make the movie, it's being released for free download on the internet via BitTorrent and podcast starting May 20th.

"It was free to make, so it's free to watch," says Munroe, who has also released his novels under a Creative Commons license for free download. But the first people who will see the movie will be attendees of their "Infestor's Meeting" at Innis Town Hall on Friday, May 18th at 7pm. "It's not as exclusive as it sounds. For \$5 you can be a 'Key Infestor'," says Munroe with a grin. "And really it's a way for people to support the project -- the money is going to pay for the fees to apply to festivals all over the world."

The movie has already seen early support from the three sponsors of the advance screening: PROJECT WONDERFUL (a grassroots internet ad scheme based on auctions rather than pageclicks), CELTX (an opensource free scriptwriting application), and THE CULTURAL GUTTER (an online magazine that covers sci-fi and other maligned genres). "I'm fairly critical of sponsorship in general," Munroe admits, "But I feel great about the people we're working with -- I used Celtx to write the movie."

The sponsorship money will fund a pressing of the DVD, to which the directors will add their DIY movie making commentary. "Hopefully we'll see more and more people realizing that making indie movies is more achievable now than it has ever been," Munroe says. "And if word about it spreads half as fast as blood-borne nanotechnology, we'll be dominating the world in no time!"

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