

The Indie Gathering

The networking event of the year!

The "REEL" News

Summer 2006

Local Filmmaker Offers Essential Audition Tips

by Peter John Ross

As aspiring moviemakers, we are always burdened with finding actors to appear in our movies. Where do these elusive beings live? How do we get them to be in our movies? How will we know if they are right for a role? The answer is simple: auditions. This is very basic info, but also handy.

First things first. Set a date(s). What will also work best is if you don't have audition until you already have a camera, and a way to edit the movie FIRST. What good is an audition or even footage for a movie if you can't finish it? And setting the shoot dates can let you know in advance if certain actors are even available for those dates.

We have to let people know about the auditions. Many newspapers, especially the alternative, more arts-friendly papers, will post your audition notices for free. There are also message boards, posting boards, and Yahoo Groups on the Internet that provide one of the best new outlets for letting people know about auditions. Also a flyer or an email to acting teachers or even the local talent agencies give an outlet for this. As long as you are upfront about the amount being paid, even if it's \$0.00, will make everything work better.

Give plenty of notice, and remind people a few days before too. You may want to have more than one audition time to allow people with varying schedules the chance to audition.

Where? Public libraries have conference rooms anyone can use for free. Or you can do this at home, but for some people, that can be a turn-off. But, if it's all you've got, then use your house. Just make sure you have two rooms. One for the auditions,

and one for people to wait. It's not fair if some people get to see how everyone else auditions and gets to talk to the director/producers and it's not indicative of their raw ability.

Use a Sign-In Sheet – include their name, phone number, email, and the time they arrived. It's always good to have everyone's contact info. Also find out if they are SAG, AFTRA, or any other union. Have a column on the sign in sheet for "union or non-union." A union actor may not be able to work on your film, or they can get permission.

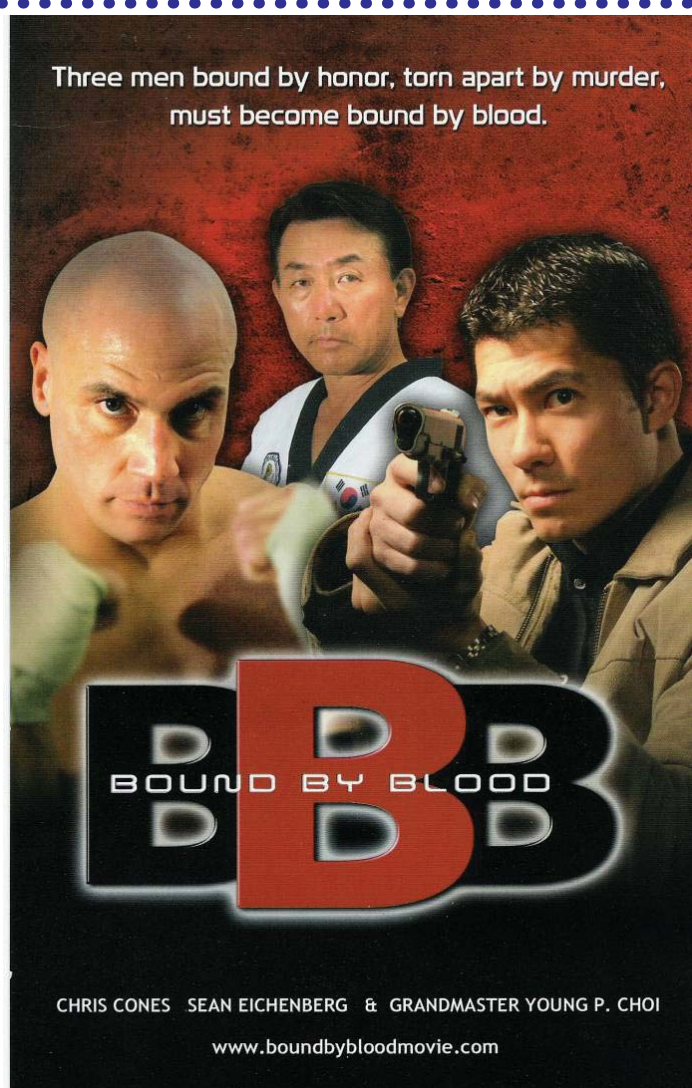
You will also want them to sign a release that allows you to use their audition tape for anything you need as well. You may never know when you may have the next J-Lo audition & you pass her up. These auditions also make great DVD extras, even for us aspiring filmmakers. It can also have additional info.

If the more experienced actors come, they will have their own headshots. If not, a Polaroid or digital camera will also be good to use for any new or aspiring actors that don't have their own headshots. Attach the pics to the release form/info sheet.

Make sure you tape the auditions. Even if you just go to VHS, you need to see the actors on tape. It's amazing how many people seem to read well, but watching the tape it comes across flat. Or sometimes, someone that didn't feel good in the room really shines on tape. You don't want to get into editing your movie to only find out THEN that this person doesn't film well.

First you'll want the actor to SLATE for the camera. That is state their name, their age, the part they are reading for, and a phone number so

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Bound By Blood's world premiere will take place at this year's Indie Gathering!

4th Floor Pictures Eagerly Awaits 2006 Indie Gathering

At the age of 15, Ryan Cavalline started making movies and hasn't stopped since. When Cavalline turned 18 he formed his own company called 4th Floor Pictures. In the fall of 2002, Cavalline's first full length feature, "Serial Killer," was completed and received high praises from critics. Cavalline followed up "Serial Killer" with the horror/action splatter "Demon Slaughter" (2003), and "Dead Body Man" (2003), which won the 2004 Screaming Stoner Award for best horror/comedy. Cavalline continued with "Day of the Ax" (2004) which won first place at the Cleveland Indy Gathering for best horror movie, "Dead Body Man 2" (2005), and more recently his latest slasher flick "House of Carnage" (2006).

Cavalline is also producing several other independent movies with new directors. In 2005, Cavalline joined forces with Ron Bonk and formed SRS Underground, a new division of SRS Cinema. 4th Floor

Pictures also teamed up with Pendulum Films to release four of Cavalline's flicks in two multipacks called *Crazed Killers* and *Savage Sickos*. Along with producing and directing films, Mr. Cavalline and the 4th Floor team travel to several film festivals each year. 4th Floor

Pictures staff remembers Cleveland's Indie Gathering as the biggest convention last year.

"The Indie Gathering Festival is not just a convention to get to get together, but a convention to network and make connections," said Cavalline. "No other festival or convention does as much for the indie film maker who wants to get his or her work out to an audience."

There is no doubt 4th Floor Pictures will be returning to this year's festival. For more information on 4th Floor Pictures, please visit www.4thfloorpictures.com or www.b-movie.com



Film Schedules

Friday Aug. 4th

(Opening Night) Films

PM

4:00 "Vanished Acres" (Film)
 4:40 "Anna and the Soldier" (Film)
 4:55 "Binta and the Great Idea" (Film)
 5:30 "Experiment" (Film)
 7:10 "Bound by Blood" (Film) *World premier!*
 9:05 "Rivers & Roads," Tori Sparks (Music Video)
 9:15 "Horrors of War" (Film)
 10:50 "Rage" (Film) *World premier!*

Networking Party with live entertainment

Saturday Films (Aug 5th)

Screening room A

10:00 AM "Purvis of Overtown" (Documentary)
 11:20 AM Jinjiimaa (Film)
 1:00 PM B - Movie (Film)
 2:30 PM Blade of the King (Concept Trailer)
 2:40 PM Rapture (Concept Trailer)
 2:50 PM East of Euclid (Film)
 4:30 PM Slipdream (Film)
 6:15 PM Whiskey Trail (Film)
 6:40 PM The Rat Diary (Animation/Experimental)
 7:00 PM The Father, Unblinking (Film)
 7:40 PM An American Letter (Film)
 8:00 PM Reflections - Tammy Hall (Music Video)
 8:15 PM Cold Comfort (Film)
 8:45 PM Endangered Species (Film)
 9:15 PM Arc (Film)
 11:30 PM Networking Party with live entertainment

Saturday Films (Aug 5th)

Screening room B

10:00 AM The Lords of Praxton
 12:30 PM The Bad Guy Speaks
 1:00 PM The Lesson (Film)
 1:20 PM The Unromantic Comedy (Film)
 2:00 PM Going Postal (Film)
 2:30 PM Confederate Zombie Massacre (Film)
 3:00 PM Passing the Bar (Film)
 5:15 PM Dumpster (Film)
 6:30 PM Orthogenesis (Film, Sci-fi)
 7:30 PM Under Surveillance (Film, Suspense)
 9:00 PM Passion to the Max (Film)
 9:15 PM Strange & Sane (Music Video)
 9:20 PM Get Free (Music Video)
 9:30 PM The Frank and Judy Show (TV Pilot)
 10:00 PM Dead Inside (Film)
 10:15 PM Hostile Denial (Concept Trailer)
 10:20 PM En Passant (Film)
 10:30 PM The Walking Ink (Film)
 10:45 PM Murder at Midnight (Film)
 11:00 PM All Bookies Wear Speedos (Film)
 11:15 PM The Last Night (Film)
 11:30 PM Networking Party with live entertainment

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The "Reel" News will be published quarterly!!!
 If you are interested in advertising or writing for the paper, please contact Ray Szuch at (216) 651-5441/ray@worldonline.com

Saturday Lectures

- 10 AM Lecture - Johnny Wu & Peter John Ross - A director's role: from pre-production to post-production
 11 AM Panel Discussion - Writing today's script
 12 PM Lecture - Finding Distribution - Mark Bosko "The BoskoGroup"
- 1 PM Acting & Stunt Eliminations Competition
- 2 PM Panel Discussion - Woman in Filmmaking - This discussion is to establish an annual "Women in Film Making" conference.
- 3PM Christopher Cook - 10 things you must do to get hired by producers - Get the roles you always wanted! This workshop will focus on business practices for beginning actors. Many actors *virtually guarantee* they won't get hired by making mistakes that are *easily avoidable*. Attend this workshop to find out how to avoid those mistakes and have the best possible chance of getting hired.
- 4 PM Christopher Cook - Get press coverage NOW! Get your film noticed by editors, writers, and reporters! This workshop will focus on marketing and media relations for filmmakers. Getting press coverage requires more than sending out press releases and offering a media kit. Too many filmmakers actually lose any chance of getting recognized because they don't understand the media. Attend this workshop to find out how to get the press coverage your film deserves.
- 5 PM Lecture - LA Casting Director - Bill Marinella on LA Casting
 6 PM Sound/Music - from pre-production to post production
 7 PM Lecture - Special Effects Makeup for Low Budget Productions
 8 PM Panel discussion - Guerrilla film making
- 9 PM Lecture - Fight scene choreographing / World Stunt Assoc. meeting (open to everyone) Any producer or director who wishes to operate a State Indie Gathering!

Sunday Lectures

- 10 AM Lecture - LA Casting Director - Bill Marinella on LA Casting
 11 AM Panel Discussion - Lighting for film
 12 PM Panel Discussion - Casting and what the director is looking for.
- 1 PM Lecture - Mary Ellen Tomazic - Legal aspects of filmmaking, Legally obtaining music synchronization rights, rights for soundtrack albums, and rights to music for other formats of the film such as VHS, DVD and online delivery
- 2 PM Panel Discussion - How an actor can better their performance
- 3PM Lecture - Bud Adams - Getting commercial work! Make sure you attend the "Getting Commercial Work" seminar at The Indie Gathering hosted by Bud Adams. He'll be going over strategies on how to turn your acting or filmmaking hobby into something that really makes \$cents\$!
- 4 PM Panel Discussion - Cinematography
 5 PM Panel Discussion - Filmmaking with LOW or NO budget
 6 PM Panel Discussion - How to better film festivals

Sunday Films (Aug 6th)

Screening room A

10:00 AM Dark Crimes (Film)
 11:50 AM Alvar Sunol: His vision and his art (Documentary)
 12:45 PM I'm the One (Music Video)
 1:00 PM Acting & Stunts competition finals & Awards!
 2:30 PM 3:18 (Film)
 3:00 PM Doing Therapy (Film)
 4:50 PM A Cigar at the Beach (Film)
 5:15 PM Jimmy Boy (Film)
 5:45 PM Forever Cursed (Film)
 7:00 PM Stars (Animation)
 7:15 PM And Then There Were NUN (Film)
 7:30 PM The Pen (Film)
 8:00 PM Closing

Sunday Films (Aug 6th)

Screening room B

10:00 AM Custody
 11:45 AM Minus Distance (Film, Horror)
 1:00 PM Oh! Be Joyful (TV Pilot)
 2:00 PM Molly (Film)
 2:15 PM Caged (Film)
 4:00 PM Broken Oath (Film)
 4:30 PM Suddenly Shay (Film)
 4:45 PM Reunion (Film)
 5:00 PM Monday Morning (Film)
 5:15 PM Runaways (Film)
 7:00 PM Dead Silent (Film)
 Closing

Acting ... Without Moving to LA

by Anne Kitral

Can one pursue one's dream in Cleveland, Ohio? My answer is "YES!" Where there's a will ... you will find a way. Like Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," I keep clicking my heels together and saying, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home ... my family is my priority ... and I'm not willing to sacrifice them for my art and move to LA. And yet ... I don't want to sacrifice my art completely ... so ..."

The pursuit of one's art is not limited to Los Angeles or New York. Here in Cleveland we have several venues for finding opportunities in theatre, film and television.

Ray Szuch is the force behind one of the venues here in town. His *WorldOnline* lists audition opportunities in film and television not only here in Cleveland, but all around the country.

When you subscribe for a small fee, you receive daily emails about auditions for independent films shooting locally, and across the nation. Szuch also conducts acting classes at his studio if you need to work on your craft. He sponsors "The Indie Gathering," an amazing opportunity to network with artists, casting directors, directors, filmmakers, producers, etc. from all around the country. You get an entire weekend of classes, competitions and opportunities to network with others in the business.

I attended last year's Indie Gathering and had a wonderful time. I learned a lot, and had the opportunity to give my demo reel to Johnny Wu. Now I am a part of Johnny Wu's independent film, "The Rapture," which is shooting here in town this July. I am playing the role of Dr. Gutierrez.

And speaking of Johnny Wu ... he provides another amazing resource for artists here in Cleveland. Wu has organized "The Cleveland IndieClub," which meets once a month at the Hyacinth Lofts. The meetings are free and open to all filmmakers. All are invited to come and screen their films, get feedback on their work, and network with their fellow artists. It is yet another wonderful local opportunity for actors to network with the filmmakers themselves. Each month, Wu has different guest artists speak about various topics related to filmmaking.

And then, there is "Fred's List," the NEOhioPAL List for FREE! Just go to Fred Sternfeld.com and subscribe. Everyday you get several emails informing you of all the events in town. It is an artists' bulletin board listing all auditions, classes, and art events, etc. in the area. You may also find a request or two seeking homes for the homeless little animals (or musical instruments) we artists so love. There are even passionate discussions about the topics we artists so love to discuss. Fred Sternfeld and Tom Fulton, executive director of the Fairmount Center, also host all levels of classes for actors at their center to hone your craft. You can get more information by going to Fred or Tom's website (www.tomfulton.com). If you're a struggling actor who doesn't own a computer, there's always the public library ... you can use the computer there for free.

So, don't let living in Cleveland stop you from pursuing your dream. There's the West Coast, the East Coast ... AND ... the Lake Coast!!! Like Dorothy said, "There's no place like home ..."



Audition Tips

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you can get a hold of them or their agency if they are represented.

You will provide the actors with SIDES, meaning 1-2 pages of script that will be used to test them for the character. So usually give them something with depth and some meat, or at least epitomizes the character to you, the director.

Tell the actors something about the character & the scene they are about to read. Then let them read it through without any direction. After one read, don't deliver the lines yourself and tell them "more like this..." (also called LINE READINGS), but ask them to do it again with more of the particular emotion you want. Tell them "HOW" you want them to act, don't show them. This is also called DIRECTING.

Use a poker face. Even if the actor is doing horrendous, don't make the person feel bad. It can cause your reputation to be ruined. And even if an actor is perfect for a role, do not make any offers at the audition. Take your time, review the tapes and be sure of it.

If there are two actors that could be right for a role, and even if you're fairly sure, try doing CALL BACKS. Call Backs are a second round of auditions. Bring the best actors back, have several of them read the SIDES together and see how they read with other actors.

After the Call Backs, feel free to make offers for parts. Verify their ability to work on the shoot dates. Be flexible, especially if you aren't paying. But also know that sometimes you won't get your first choice for a role, even though they auditioned and even did call backs. Sometimes you will even get through rehearsals and an actor will be a no-show. That's when you call your 2nd, 3rd, and sometimes 4th choice. If you held professional auditions, it won't be a problem to attract good actors.

Good luck.

About award winning filmmaker Peter John Ross & Sonnyboo Productions – Founded in 1999, Sonnyboo short films have played on 3 continents and at over 50 film festivals world wide. Projects directed by Peter John Ross appear on Tech TV, National Lampoon Networks, Movieola the short film channel, The "U" Network, and Vegas Indies TV. Sonnyboo films have been noted in such publications as RES Magazine, Ain't It Cool News, Camcorder & Computer Video magazine, Film & Video Magazine, LA Weekly, Film Threat, The Village Voice, & Internet Video Magazine.



Short Film Winners

Trailer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Rage 2 - Blade of the King 3 - Hostile Denial 4 - Trace 	Animation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Stars 2 - Zoom Suit 3 - Hate Preachers 4 - Hatpin Mary meets Captain Eyeball
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The Father, Unblinking 1 - The Pen 2 - 3:18 2 - An American Letter 3 - A Cigar at the Beach 3 - Molly 4 - Endangered Species 	Animation/ Experimental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The Rat Diary 2 - Frat Brothers 3 - The Rastafarian and the Accountant 4 - The Policeman
Drama/Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Whiskey Trail 	Comedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Playtown 2 - All Bookies Wear Speedos 3 - The Unromantic Comedy
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Jimmy Boy 2 - Passion to the Max 3 - Girl with Gun 	Suspense/Thriller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Cold Comfort 2 - And Then There Were Nun
Martial Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The Lesson 	Sci-Fi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Dead Inside 2 - Orthogenesis 3 - The Fall
Documentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Alvar Sunol 2 - Cadillac Man 3 - War Zone to Workplace 4 - Riverboat Dreams 	Horror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Murder at Midnight 2 - Suddenly Shay 3 - In Memory of...
Documentary/ Sub-titled Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Voices From an Island - Cuba 2 - The Disappeared Ones 	Horror/Comedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Confederate Zombie Massacre 2 - Plague of the Sonoran Bloodsuckers
TV Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The Frank and Judy Show 2 - Oh! Be Joyful 	Sub-titled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Binta and the Great Idea 2 - Anna and the Soldier
		Experimental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The Walking Ink 2 - The Muse 2 - Monday Morning 3 - Pillow Girl

Feature Film Winners

Family	1 - Custody 2 - Nathan's Rebellion 3 - Music to my Ears	Martial Arts	1 - Bound by Blood
Drama	1 - Caged 1 - Runaways 2 - Morning Song Way 3 - Needle-Ville 4 - Human Achievement	Horror	1 - Minus Distance 2 - Spooky Hollow 3 - Slashers Gone Wild
Drama/Crime	1 - Dark Crimes 2 - Arc	Sci-Fi	1 - B Movie 2 - Lords of Praxton 3 - Antegone
Drama/Comedy	1 - Dumpster 2 - The Girl	Suspense/Thriller	1 - Experiment 2 - Under Surveillance 3 - Bang
Comedy	1 - East of Euclid 2 - Passing the Bar 3 - Fetus Fetish 4 - No White Knight	Sub-titled	1 - Jinjiimaa (Mongolia) 2 - Fourth Grade B (Brazil) 3 - Honeymoon (South Korea)
Comedy/Romantic	1 - Doing Therapy	Documentary	1 - Purvis of Overtown 2 - Friendly Fire 3 - The Drugging of our Children 4 - Prescription for Disaster
Action	1 - Forever Cursed 2 - Justifiable Romance 3 - Grip, A Criminals Story	Experimental	1 - Slipdream 2 - Lay Down Tracks

Music Video Awards

POP	1 - "Rivers & Roads" 2 - "Drama Queen" 3 - "Desperate for Love"	Tori Sparks Bimbo Boy Jenna Love
Jazz	1 - "Reflections"	Tammy Hall
Alternative	1 - "Strange & Sane"	
Classic Rock	1 - "I'm The One"	
Rap	1 - "Get Free" 2 - "Da Man"	Neb Luv Greg Pitts
Animation	1 - "Don't F__k With Love" 2 - "Green Umbrella"	The Sad Little Ones

Short Script Winners

Comedy	1 - The Husband 1 - Flesh of Gasony 2 - Fin & Euba 3 - Sunny Springs 4 - Atonement Tonight	Wade Ballance Emanuele Persico Audrey Cefaly Kitania Kavey Anny Slater
Drama	1 - The Woman Next Door 2 - Joanie's Doughnut 3 - Alone in a Crowd 4 - Chroma	Mara Lesemann Ramon Olivier Alan R. Baxter Michael Kisselburg
Suspense/Thriller	1 - Blood Relative	Robert M. Heske
Sci-Fi	1 - The Blue Light 2 - Deserted	Ramiro Hernandez Rebecca Edmonston
Family	1 - Horse for Sale	Katarzyna Kochany

Student Film Winners

Suspense	1 - The Last Night
Documentary	1 - The Road to Ticket to Broadway
Experimental	1 - Shutter
Drama	1 - Vanished Acres 2 - The Bad Guy Speaks
Comedy	1 - Hack 3D 2 - Duck Tape

Feature Script Winners

Horror	1 - Controlled Anger 2 - The Lost Cannibals of Cahokia 3 - The Fury 4 - Iniquity	James Ziolkowski Rich Hoffman John Riddlebaugh Von Mock
Sci-Fi	1 - Time & Again 2 - Invasion of the Pod People 3 - Blue Ground 4 - The Dark Oasis 4 - Redneck Riviera	Stuart A. Creque Craig Proudley James T. Frazier Brandon Vanhook Jennie Sheffield
Musical	1 - The Tower of Babel 1 - The New Picasso	Jonathan David Sloate Jonathan David Sloate
Suspense/Thriller	1 - Hostile Denial 2 - Gilded Cage 3 - Palm Trees & Power Lines 4 - Unhappy Endings	Mike Trivisonno Victoria Linchong Richard Martin Stuart A. Creque
Drama	1 - Drag 2 - The Nowhere Man 3 - Crimson Highway 4 - Mine 4 - The Paper Route	Jethro Nededog E. Olszewski / MSqueqlia Daniel & Tony Lopez Anita J. Skibski Danny M. Howell
Family	1 - True Colors 2 - Crash/Burn @ 0 Degrees 3 - The Pickup	Candance Brasseur Anita Justice Skibski B. G. Ellis
Comedy	1 - Pyramid Scheme 2 - Bringing Home Abu 3 - Rochester 3 - She's Got a Way 4 - The Man With the Package	Diane Uniman, Esq. Gloria Ann Smith James T. Frazier Elise L. Stempky Kitania Kavey

Learn to Market Yourself and Your Film: Workshops for Actors and Filmmakers

Ten Things Every Actor Must Do to Get Hired

Get the roles you always wanted! This workshop will focus on business and marketing practices for beginning actors. Many actors virtually guarantee they won't get hired by making mistakes that are easily avoidable. Attend this workshop to find out how to avoid those mistakes and have the best possible chance of getting hired.

Get Press Coverage Now

Get your film noticed by editors, writers, and reporters! This workshop will focus on marketing and media relations for filmmakers. Getting press coverage requires more than sending out press releases and offering a media kit. Too many filmmakers actually lose any chance of getting recognized because they don't understand the media. Attend this workshop to find out how to get the press coverage your film deserves.

Both workshops will be presented by Christopher Cook from Strange Stuff Productions. Christopher is a writer, photographer, and producer when he isn't at the Indie Gathering having too much fun for his own good. He has a Master of Science degree in marketing and communications with over 20 years of marketing and business experience. Outside of his marketing work, he writes for Cryptic Magazine as well as his own web site.



"The 2005 Indie Gathering was the most fun of all the conventions I attended last year. I can't wait for Indie Gathering 2006."

- Christopher Cook



Christopher Cook
Strange Stuff Productions

TheIndieGathering.com

The Networking Event of the Year!