

COLUMBIA *flier*

Columbia Film Firm's Work Gets Unique Debut

Frank McIntyre, a partner at Pixel Workshop of Columbia, had some fun creating special effects for a film that played Jan. 23 and Jan. 27 at the SlamDance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Now he's producing a film of his own, about a down-trodden man who is trapped in an elevator, but that's another story.

McIntyre, who attended the Rhode Island School of Design, owns Pixel Workshop with Ilana and David Bittner. The Bittners were Radio, Television and Film majors at the University of Maryland.

Christopher Skokowski, another Maryland alum, recently helped make "Albert's Thumb," a short film in two parts - one about a person who causes a nuclear apocalypse and the other about a person who survives it.

He asked Pixel to help with the black and white second part, called "Mr. Hakensac's Very Bad Day." McIntyre estimates that he spent about a week on the project.

In the opening scene, he used footage of nuclear tests from the World War II-era to show what Mr. Hakensac sees as he looks out his window. He used similar footage later to replace the Baltimore City skyline while maintaining the framework of the huge natural gas tanks along Interstate 95.

Finally, McIntyre produced the on-screen-interview graphics for a fictionalized TV news show's "Survivor Watch" segment. "That segment was sort of an industry joke," he says. "The footage looked like something from the 30's, but treated with the same sort of graphics you see on the evening news."

"This project should get some good exposure, help get the word out that we're doing this kind of work, and make some connections with other local film makers as well."

In the meantime, Pixel will continue to work for clients such as the US Food and Drug Administration, McGraw Hill Publishing and the University of Maryland Athletic Department.

McIntyre will keep working on his own film, too, which as yet is unnamed, but should be premiering this summer.

