

'Nudged' features local talent, charm

Film to premiere tomorrow at the Corral Theater

CANDICE BRUSUELAS
FEATURES EDITOR

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If you're looking for award-winning cinema or high-dollar action scenes, "Nudged" is not for you. If you're looking for the culmination of local creativity and hard work, you'll find something worthwhile. "Nudged" is a Smith Creek Studios film written, directed and produced by Rodger Marion and filmed right here in Wimberley. "Nudged" explores the lives of a few people brought together by a local non-profit television station.

The plot is hard to explain as it is character-driven and watches the effects interactions have on each

individuals' lives. The main character is Paul, played by John Daws, an exhausted cancer survivor who can't stop pining for his wife, tragically lost years back in a car wreck. His dead wife, Lynette, played by Deanna Lalach, comes to him when he paints and speaks words of advice and concern. Paul can't get himself to finish his big painting, a large blank canvas. He thinks the big painting will be his next great work, if he can only do it.

Math teacher Mary, played by Carla Daws, enters the story when she asks Paul to make an appearance on her kid's show at the TV station: "Fun With Math." She tells Paul she noticed

he uses mathematical elements in his paintings. Paul doesn't see or understand the connection, but agrees to show, and everyone is soon asking Paul if he's interested in Mary.

Paul's daughter, yoga instructor Rose (played by Tiffany Patch), meets Mary's daughter Nina (Celeste Coburn), and the two become instant friends.

Another main character is Rusty, the guy who just rolled into town looking for a project to get him back into the voice-over business. Rusty has daydreams of living it up in the city with a motorcycle, and Rose on the back of it. Rusty has a problem with booze and other illicit drugs and soon

starts unraveling.

John Daws' acting is wonderful and is one of the better, more believable characters. Paul is set in his ways and not one to take action, while others around him urge him to make some changes. John Daws has great chemistry with both Lalach and Carla Daws (probably because they're married in real life) and the interactions between him and these characters is the most poignant.

Many of the earlier interactions of the characters feel forced. When Nina and Rose first meet, Nina asks if she can see Rose's chickens.

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It is an unusual request, and more unusual that Rose is prepared to make the chicken meet into a girls date, complete with beers.

Rose and ghost-wife Lynette also waste no time in asking Paul about Mary and if she "stirred up any of the old hormones." And this is after Paul only, quite casually, told each of them about showing up on Mary's kid's show. Unbelievable, yes, but stick with it and the story gets better.

Rusty's cheesy daydreams are perfect. They effectively show Rusty's ambitions and possibly past life, while injecting a bit of lighthearted play into Rusty's otherwise dark character.

Naturally, you'll recognize local people and sights. Eppy the Clown makes an appearance at a local art festival. You'll recognize the Heart of Texas Yoga studio and Calley's Jewelry on the Wimberley square. There are some hiking scenes down by the creeks that also give Hill Country natives a familiar look at their



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Nina, played by Celeste Coburn, talks to her mother Mary, played by Carla Daws, and tells her to "lighten up."

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backyard.

The show was made to be kid-friendly. There is an absence of profanity, and obvious when Nina angrily says, "Why don't you take your lame comments and buzz off, Rusty?" Also, the only sexual interaction is a few moments of kissing. It's safe to bring the kids, but the movie is likely more interesting for adults. The movie is too introspective for kids to be very effec-

tively entertained.

The movie deals with some classic themes and some new-age; a pleasant combination for a local film. "Nudged" plays a sort of soft ambient music throughout and has it's moments of delightful humor and dark themes as well. What rings especially true is the happenings of everyday small-town life and the effects we all have on one another's lives.

"Nudged" will premiere at the Corral Theater tomorrow night around 8 p.m. (or when it's dark). Admission is free and the refreshment counter will be open. Bring your own chairs if you wish. The theater is at RR 3237 and Flite Acres Road (100 Flite Acres Road). For more information about the film, visit www.nudgedmovie.com.