

Local Filmmaker Enjoying Kudos for His Latest Short Film;

Screenings Scheduled in Area Cinemas

York – Writer/Producer Rick Hansberry will present a screening of his latest film “Branches” in the Capitol Theater at The Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center on Friday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. This holiday short film, from his award-winning screenplay, marks another step in Hansberry’s twenty-plus year journey to connect with audiences through movies outside of the Hollywood studio system.

“Branches” is a Christmas story and brings Hansberry full circle to work with an actor who starred in one of Rick’s favorite films, “Diner.” In 2009, with a sparse budget and little more than determination and a dream, Hansberry, through casting agent, Kristin Barber, approached Daniel Stern about narrating his short film. Stern co-starred in “Diner” which is set over the Christmas holidays in 1959 and went on to star as the tall thief in the “Home Alone” movies.

“I was a fan of both, especially ‘Diner’ but it was Stern’s heartfelt and earnest narration in the popular television series, ‘The Wonder Years’ that put Stern at the top of the wish list of Hansberry and Producer/Director, Chris Messineo,” Hansberry said. “Stern loved the script and agreed to the role, despite the film’s relatively small budget and independent status.”

The result could become a new holiday classic.

“Early feedback on the film has been overwhelming. I’m thrilled that it’s hitting an emotional cord with people,” Rick offered. The movie made its film festival debut in October at The Pocono Mountains Film Festival and is presently under consideration for several other prestigious festivals. DVD copies of the film are available for sale through the film’s web site and its Facebook page.

Rick will speak to the audience briefly immediately prior to the screening at The Capitol Theater and will be available to sign DVDs immediately after the screening. More information is available at the film’s web site: www.branchesmovie.com or by contacting Rick directly at: djrickhansberry@msn.com.

You’re Invited!

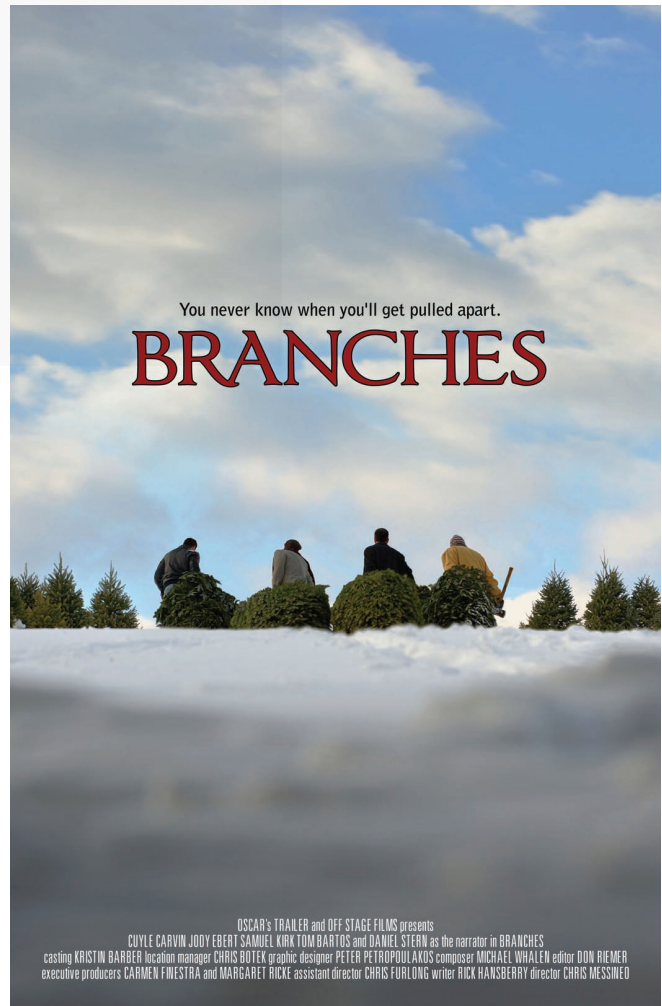
Premiere of the new short film,
Branches

Writer/Producer Rick Hansberry
Penn Cinema

Lititz, Lancaster County
Saturday, November 20 at 11 a.m.

York Screening
Strand-Capitol Performing Arts
Center
Capitol Theater

Friday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Prior to Showing of Annual Holiday Film
www.strandcapitol.org



This Short Film Packs a Satisfying and Emotional Experience and Delivers an Important Message *By Kelly D. Summerford*

During the first minute while I was watching the short film, “Branches,” written and produced by local filmmaker Rick Hansberry, I thought I was seeing a trailer for a full feature film, with beautifully scripted scenes and an excellent narration introducing the characters.

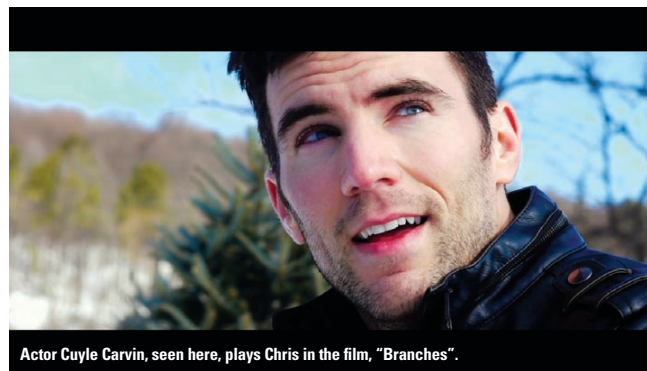
Then I was drawn into the full beauty of this film. I found myself so involved in where this film was taking me that I was hanging on every word. I wanted to make sure I did not miss any angle or nuance. I was introduced to four young men. Apparently they were friends having fun. They were walking, running, actually playing in the outdoors on a beautiful tree farm – a Christmas Tree farm.

In a period of five short minutes this “short” was able deliver a message that many people spend years in therapy trying to get. I was impressed how the writer fused nature with life and how

all things living share a similar path in existence.

The calm winter scenery was the perfect backdrop to tell this story. I was

not aware at first that none of the actors was speaking a single word. The things they did, the way they walked, the way they laughed, the way they held their



Actor Cuyle Carvin, seen here, plays Chris in the film, “Branches”.



heads captured the full personality of their characters. The original music was a perfect complement, setting a mood for the story as the narrator brought me into the film. By the end of the film I felt I will eventually be one of the characters.

I could talk about cinematography, costumes and even camera angles, but why spoil the mood?

If there is ever a film that should be in the DVD collection of every one I know, this is the one. What a beautiful film -- simply told and deeply felt.

Kelly D. Summerford is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He has appeared in stage productions, movies and television and served as a voting member of the Screen Actors Awards.