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Clear Lake Setting, Subject of New Film

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Reporter: Katie Heinz
Email Address: katie.heinz@weau.com



Not every movie has to be set in the Hollywood hills or midtown Manhattan - even a handful are shot right here.



The Village of Clear Lake is the subject and setting for a new independent film.

The film is called "Clear Lake WI" and features several western Wisconsin natives.

Dozens of cast and crew members are in the final filming stages as we speak.

They say the Village of Clear Lake was the inspiration for the film.

A film crew is hoping this town of 1,000 makes the perfect backdrop for scenes straight out of Hollywood.

"It's just this great town," said producer and director of the film, Brian Ide. "There's very distinct things we had access to that we wouldn't in L.A. - retired schools, the saw mill - it was the perfect backdrop for the film. So we kind of wrote the film around the locations we had access to."

Director Brian Ide, along with Clear Lake native and lead actor Dustin Booth, say the film is a psychological thriller.

"The story is 15 years ago, there was this wave of unexplained illness that entered into this small town called Clear Lake, and nobody knew what caused it," Ide said.

The film meets up with a group of students returning to a ghost town, to try and find the cause.

Booth says the inspiration for the idea came from a trip with Ide to his hometown.

"He said, 'Wow, have you ever thought about shooting here?' And I never thought about it," Booth said.

Crew members from all over the country are working on "Clear Lake WI."

And Ide and Booth put ads in the local newspaper to get local college and high school students involved.

"I love movies so much I just thought 'I've got to get in on this,'" said Barbie Buzzelli, a high school student from Bruce.

Village leaders say it's positive news for this small town.

"I think it's a big bonus to the community," said Clear Lake Village Clerk and Treasurer Al Bannink. "It's not too often a community the size of Clear Lake has the opportunity to showcase itself."

"If someone would've said we'd be up here, I wouldn't have believed it," Booth said. "It's been wonderful."

The director says he hopes to finish shooting and editing the film by this summer.

He says the crew plans to then hold a premiere in Clear Lake.

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