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## Memories on trial in intriguing new film

By KATHLEEN PALMER

*Staff Writer*

Have you ever thanked your lucky stars that nobody could read your mind? Are you sometimes relieved that the secrets in your brain remain exactly that – secret? A new film may have you panicking just a bit about the sanctuary and inaccessibility of your private thoughts.

“Justice is Mind,” written, directed and produced by Mark Lund, imagines a way-too-soon future where memories can be accessed and used against an accused criminal in a court of law. If you think that possibility is pure sci-fi, think again. Science and technology are well on the way to achieving that, Lund asserts. He cited the research that got him interested in the subject matter.

“It’s been a three-year project so far; I wrote the script in 2009, after I saw a segment on ‘60 Minutes’ about a thought identification project,” Lund said. “The science is pretty far along to read memories. It’s all done by functional MRI. Scientists at Carnegie Mellon created a program that can tell what you’re looking at and processing, based on the areas activated in the brain.”

Yes, “Justice is Mind” is still science fiction; the movie portrays a defendant’s memories of the day of a crime as a video rendering. But the scientists at Carnegie Mellon told Lund that may be possible in as little as 7-10 shocking years. “We’re already seeing a case in Maryland where a defendant wanted MRI evidence introduced to show his intention,” Lund said. “This movie is set in 2026. I believe at some point, it’s only going to take one case, and MRI tests of this nature will be allowed into courtrooms. (Whereas) sometimes lie detectors aren’t allowed because people can fake the results, it’s hard to fake DNA or brain activity. In my opinion, it’s the next frontier in courtroom evidence. Imagine if they’d had it in the George Zimmerman trial, and had the opportunity to put the defendant in their program to prove his intent.”

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, Cinemagic in Merrimack will host a local showing of “Justice is Mind.” The movie was shot in and around Nashua, with many local actors and production team.

Giorgio’s restaurant in Merrimack was the site for one scene. Lund said shooting at the restaurant overnights “was difficult – you’re trying to sleep during the day and doing a night shoot, and you’re running on 5-Hour Energy. But Giorgio’s went all out to accommodate us. This one scene was shot over three days, starting at 8:30 p.m. and going until four in the morning. You have to do multiple takes and angles; it’s time-consuming. Moviegoers sometimes don’t understand a two-minute scene might have taken two or three hours to

complete," Lund said.

"Justice is Mind" follows the main character as he goes to have an experimental MRI as a last resort to figure out the reason for his persistent headaches since childhood. Doctors suspect he must be repressing an experience. A procedure stipulation is to sign a release; if the MRI reveals you committed a capital crime, you'll be turned over to the DA. They end up seeing a shooting in his memory, and he's arrested and on trial facing his own memory of an incident he doesn't recall living through.

This is the first feature film for Lund, 48, who lives in Worcester, Mass. But he's made other short films, television commercials, done event management, magazine publication and much more in the media world. Lund has many television and Los Angeles connections – he was a commentator during the 2002 Winter Olympics for CNN, and a judge on "Skating with Celebrities." These connections will hopefully pay off, when Lund takes his project to the next level.

Lund said "Justice is Mind" could go many different ways. His indie film could be picked up and released as is, like "Paranormal Activity" was. "They made that for \$15,000 and when it was distributed by Paramount, it earned \$200 million," he said. It could be remade by a big production company. Or, if Lund has his druthers, the story will be continued as a television series – a concept Lund compares to "'Fringe' meets 'Law and Order.'"

But until that happens, Lund is very happy with his film. "It's a great time for filmmakers. Everyone has the opportunity to make a film on a reasonable budget and get it released, either on their own or with a distributor," he said. "I've had conversations with some distributors, but you don't have to wait for one, or for a film festival to select you."

You do have to wait, however, for your memories to be projected from your brain onto a video screen. But not long.

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