



From Spencer to the big screen

LOCAL MAN'S
FILM TO
SCREEN AT
STURBRIDGE
CINEMA

BY AMANDA COLLINS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Imagine facing trial for two heinous murders you know you didn't commit, but the evidence against you is your own memory of the crime.

Such is the plight of Henri Miller, the lead character in the sci-fi film "Justice Is Mind," written, directed and produced by a local man and shot right in our backyard.

Spencer native Mark Lund's independent crime and mystery film, set in 2026, puts a man on trial



Courtesy photos

"Justice Is Mind" director Mark Lund, left, and Director of Photography Jeremy Blaiklock, center, review a shot while actor Richard Bym looks on. Bym is a real life police detective in Oxford.

against images taken from his own mind, and will screen at the Sturbridge Cinemagic movie theater later this month.

In the movie, Henri sees a doctor after years of dealing with unexplained headaches, and decides to undergo a new "FVMRI"

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Local film set for screening in Sturbridge theater

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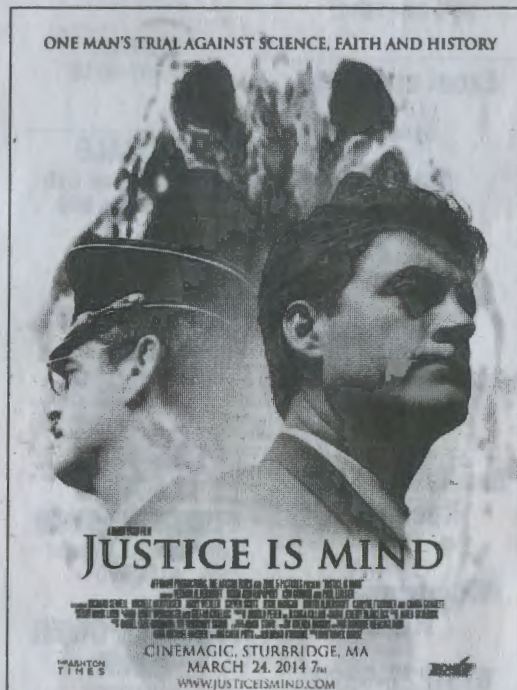
procedure (Functional Video MRI) — an MRI-type machine that reads his long-term memory into video form. When trapped in his brain a memory of Henri shooting two people is uncovered, the Worcester restaurateur and family man must face his own mind in the courtroom.

“It takes the viewer on quite a ride — from the past to what’s the present day in the film,” said Lund. “In the end, everything is wrapped up in a conclusion that most people don’t see coming.”

The movie’s premise might sound a bit implausible, but Lund, a marketing consultant who has dabbled in screenwriting for some time, said that the idea of mind-reading technology is actually not so far-fetched. In fact, the story was inspired by a “60 Minutes” segment he saw in 2009 that showed that a computer was able to identify objects people were thinking about solely from their brain activity pattern. The film also ties into to some recent news stories related to privacy and the government.

“With NSA surveillance issues in the headlines, recent US Supreme Court cases in regard to DNA and privacy along with a July article in The Atlantic magazine titled ‘Could the Government Get a Search Warrant for Your Thoughts,’ as you can imagine, we believe ‘Justice Is Mind’ is well timed,” said Lund.

Still, Lund said the futuristic aspects



Courtesy photos

“Justice Is Mind,” a film written, directed and produced by a Spencer native and shot in Oxford will screen in Sturbridge on March 24.

of the film are balanced by real, human moments.

“Justice Is Mind” features an original score, more 170 special effects, and actors from all over New England, as well as local non-actors who appear in the film as themselves.

A few scenes from the movie were shot in Worcester, Shrewsbury Haverhill, and

Andover, but the majority was filmed in Oxford in summer and fall of 2012. Viewers will recognize businesses like the Pizza Post and Four Winds Farm, and might catch a glimpse of some Oxford EMTs and police officers making their film debut.

The upcoming Sturbridge showing marks the film’s 10th theatrical screening. Lund said he’s looking forward to it because it will give people from the area who were a part of making the film the chance to see it on the big screen. Many of the actors, Lund, and some of his David Prouty High School classmates plan on attending the Sturbridge screening, and he’s hoping to see some new faces there too.

“As an independent filmmaker, having the support of theater chains like Cinemagic is critical to connecting with audiences and developing a following,” he said.

Lund wrote the screenplay in about four months, filming was spread out over another three months, and post-production work took 10 more months. But seeing it come together has been worth all the effort, said Lund.

“It was almost a four-year-long journey, so when we finally got to that world premier it was beyond exiting — just tremendous,” he said.

“Justice Is Mind” will show at Cinemagic Monday, March 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

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Southbridge Evening News

March 3, 2014

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