



*Kevin Di***Bacca**



Producer / **Director**

Kevin DiBacco

Producer/Director/Editor

In 1981, Kevin knew exactly what he wanted to do when he started his career at a college TV station. From there he continued to work his way through the television and film business and found success developing projects for large corporations, record labels and broadcast television. He's the recipient of dozens of awards for his work as a cinematographer, videographer, editor and director. Kevin's experience with film and passion for storytelling inspired him to direct and produce the feature film *Willows Way*. Kevin continues to benefit from his 25 plus years of experience as he develops *Back to the Beyond*.

FILMOGRAPHY:

- 1982 Music Video 'Albert Collins' Alligator records
- 1984 Music Video 'Sonny Terry' Alligator records
- 1985 Documentary 'Two wheel drive' Houston Film Fest.
- 1986 'Device' Renaissance Records'
- 1988 Music Video 'Wet Willie' CBS records
- 1989 Music Video 'Alexander' MTV
- 1990 Music Video 'Bart Bryant' MTV
- 1990 Music Video 'Ideola' Word Records
- 1990 Music Video 'Alexander' MTV
- 1992 Music Video 'BB King'
- 1992 Music Video 'Earl Valentine'
- 1993 Music Video 'Redding Bros.'
- 1993 Music Video 'Violet Rose' CBS records
- 1994 Short Film 'The Phones'
- 1994 Short Film 'Wait for the Beep'
- 1994 Short Film 'Camouflage'
- 1995 Short Film 'Pin Number'
- 1999 Music Video 'Wax Works'
- 1999 Music Video 'Alyssa Spellman'
- 2001 Feature Film 'Mars Hill 04758'
- 2002 Music Video 'Unexpected Company' Sonic Records
- 2003 Short Film 'Split Second'
- 2003 'Live' Video' Bob Marley 'Comedy'
- 2003 'Audio documentary' Tim Sample 'Comedy'
- 2003 'Documentary' Portland Past 'PBS'
- 2007 'Feature Film' Willows Way

Raffaele DiBacco

Producer/Writer

Raffaele was a published poet and short story writer before shifting his focus to the entertainment industry. In 1994, he and brother Kevin received certification from *Dov S-S Simens' Hollywood Film Institute*, joining such alumnus's as Queen Latifah, Will Smith, and Quentin Tarantino. The following year, Raffaele enrolled in the *Hollywood Scriptwriting Institute* and spent the next two years mastering his craft under noted screenwriter Earl Blakesley, Jr., whose screen credits include the popular television shows *China Beach* and *Tour of Duty*. Raffaele penned and produced the *Mars Hill* anthology in 2000, then followed it up in 2001 with the acclaimed short film *Split Second*. He wrote and produced *Willows Way* and looks forward to developing his full-length feature, *Back to the Beyond*.

Kevin DiBacco (left) and Raffaele DiBacco going over shot list





By Carol Patten

WILLOWS WAY: Directed by Kevin Dibacco

How does a movie become a cult film with a sequel already being written before it has a premiere or gets a release date? It begins with an intriguing script, an alluring set, and a very enthusiastic, hard working cast and crew that came together to create **WILLOWS WAY**. **WILLOWS WAY** is a sci-fi independent film written and directed by a team of Maine brothers, Ralph (actually Raffaele) and Kevin Dibacco.

The cast and crew became best friends; they and their friends rooted for the project and now Ralph and Kevin have entered into a distribution agreement with York Entertainment and have a DVD release date of April 22, 2008. A Maine Premiere of the film Sunday, May 4th, at 3 PM at the Wynoham Hotel in South Portland, Maine will make up for the projects' missed wrap party. The whole cast and crew will be present.

Here's the synopsis for the film: A grieving father finds solace in an encounter with a stranded alien messenger and his magical staff. The messenger reveals that he became lost in space and time while on a mission to witness the arrival of a "promised one," a holy being destined to save mankind.

When the father intercepts the staff and travels back in time to try and prevent his son's death, the messenger begins to doubt his own mission and mankind's redemptive worth, and seeks to hold the planet accountable. In the end will the man choose to save his son, or instead prove the alien wrong and save mankind from certain demise?

Where did the idea for this film come from? Ralph DiBacco, the writer in the family, told us the story had been brewing a number of years, maybe incubating for a period of five years? In 2006, Ralph flushed out a rough draft... In the spring of 2007 he finished the script. And that's where Kevin DiBacco, the director in the family comes in. The two brothers have been making short films, commercial, and music videos since the mid-eighties, twenty plus years. This would be their first feature film. Totally self funded, the budget came in just under \$100,000.

Amid scouting locations and assembling a crew, the pair held a Casting Call in a Westbrook, Maine Mill Office, really off the beaten path. But, more than 80 people appeared and the pair of brothers was amazed at the talent they found to cast in their first feature film. All but one came from New England.

Here's the cast: Casey McDougal as Abigail Richards (Connecticut), C. James Roberts as Jacob Lazar (Maine), Karl Steudel as The Messenger/AI'ael (Massachusetts), Bill Humphreys as Pastor Everett Richards (Maine), Dan McCready as Liam "Sully" Sullivan (Massachusetts), Don Martone as Dominick "Bom" Graziano (Rhode Island), Michel Tomico-Trahan as Albert "Bert" Crawford (Florida), Raquel Boehmer as Lois Kent Penny Korff as Sheriff Cassandra Bean (Massachusetts), Ann Harrison-Billiat as The Paramedic.

According to director Kevin DiBacco, "Our mission at DiBacco Films is simple, to do what we love and create entertaining film & video.... we strive to sell our movies to

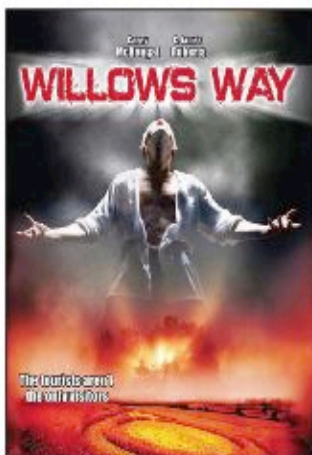
right clockwise from top left: C. James Roberts as Jacob Lazar on a break on the set of WILLOWS WAY. Photo by Mark Hensley.

Kevin DiBacco and Mike Boucher (cinematographer) capture the garage scene. Photo by Mark Hensley.

Director Kevin DiBacco discusses the next scene with Script Supervisor Karla Fossett and Director of Photography Mike Boucher on the set of WILLOWS WAY. Photo by Mark Hensley.

Actor Karl Steudel and writer/producer Ralph DiBacco digest the next scene on the set of WILLOWS WAY. Photo by Mark Hensley.

The official new poster for DiBacco Film's WILLOWS WAY. Image courtesy of York Entertainment.



from top to bottom: The official new poster for DiBacco Film's WILLOWS WAY. Image courtesy of York Entertainment.

The WILLOWS WAY crew on the move. Photo by Mark Hensley.

Actor Bill Humphreys teaching on the ways of servitude on the set of WILLOWS WAY in Maine. Photo by Mark Hensley.



the masses. For the past 25 years we have stayed focused on our goal, without political influence, rich parents or corporate corruption. We will always fight for the underdog. We want people around us that have the same goal. Here's to the spirit of the Independent artist, and the freedom to create as you wish."

The people (crew) Kevin and Ralph surrounded themselves with are: Tim Francis as Producer/Production Supervisor (everyone is from Maine unless otherwise noted), Mike Boucher, Director of Photography; Rachel Arsenault, Graphic Designer; James Pross, Attorney/Agent; Angie Helton, Consultant/Associate Producer; Eddie "King" Green, Music Score (Massachusetts); Judy Beedle, 2nd AD; Karla Fossett, Script Supervisor; Chris Colucci, Continuity Director; Amanda Edgbert, Make Up; Judy Beedle, 2nd AD; Will Fraser, Location/Associate Producer; Bob Fiske, SFX/Props; Shaun Johnson, Location Audio Recording; Matt Fletcher, Audio; Mark Hensley, Production Photographer; Janis Vooris, Craft Services, Food/Crew Mom; and PA's Tiffany Carruthers, Dave "Doc" Caswell (NH), Jillian Hilton, Jonathan "Many Hats" Blood, Sam Lazarus, Kim McClellan, and Neil Craig. All of whom reportedly shared the same goal.

Ralph, who is also a producer on the film as well as the writer, said, "The stars lined up... beyond any expectation; we had good weather, in twelve shooting days there was no rain, no clouds, no actor was ever late, no crew member was late or absent, absolutely nothing went wrong. It was surreal: no batteries died, the food was good, there was more than enough (food) and it was on time. It may have been supernatural. There was an aura around the sun, two weekends in a row. That's perfect continuity... really rare."

When post-production was complete, Kevin and Ralph sent out a DVD trailer and poster of the film to 150 distributors they selected from the Hollywood Creative Directory. They chose those that they thought best would represent their sci-fi genre film. They received two responses. Vanguard and York Entertainment responded and asked for screeners. A week later York Entertainment wanted to sign a contract. The brothers,

along with James Pross, their long time attorney in Augusta, hammered out a deal.

So many things happened in the last 3 weeks.

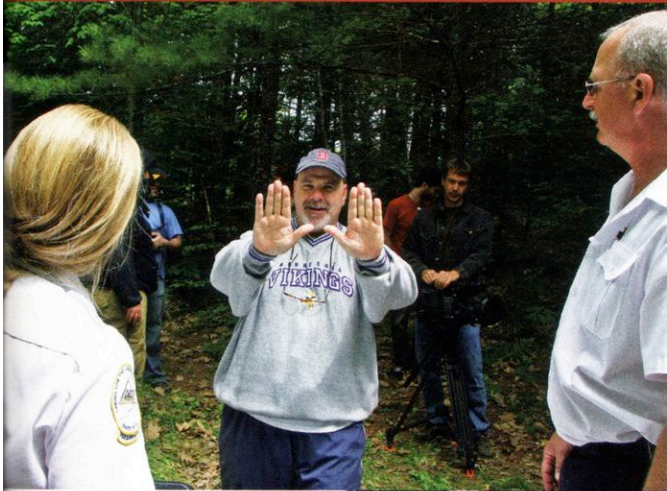
It cost DiBacco Films \$1,500 to convert their film to digi-beta and they didn't get an advance. And they haven't even seen their final film yet, actually not knowing if it was at all edited or changed. York held the rights to edit and change title, art etc. The title has not changed: the poster did. Already York has featured the film at NATPE in Las Vegas the last week in January (see the NATPE Report in this issue), and York now, as we go to press, are off to the European Film Market (EFM) in Berlin with a slate of sixteen films, WILLOWS WAY among them. Kevin and Ralph have confidence in Marty Poole, York's Acquisitions Director.

Headquartered in Los Angeles, York's films are distributed in the traditional DVD format, as well as through new media digital formats and streaming. York's DVD product is available nationally through wholesalers like Ingram Entertainment, VPD, and Waxworks & Baker & Taylor. From coast to coast, York titles fill the shelves in many major retail outlets and can be readily accessed via a multitude of internet-based streaming and distribution sources.

Kevin and Ralph DiBacco await results from their being featured at NATPE and EFM. But mostly they are looking forward to their film's release and their local premiere. We'll be checking in with them for the information every independent filmmaker wants to know: what return on their investment (both money and creative effort) will they make back? And how many people will see their work?

For more information visit: www.willows-waythemovie.com.

Carol Patten is the founder and publisher of IMAGINE. She is an advocate for the industry in New England serving to encourage our region to become the number three production Mecca in America.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Kevin DiBacco, James Stiles, Franklin McMahon, Christian Matzke and Huey (on top of Mt. Katahdin) choose to make movies in Maine.

here, but I am proud to call Maine both my home and my backlot.

—**Christian Matzke**, WRITER-DIRECTOR (*Experiment 18: Das Hexenhammer-Projekt*)

In Maine there's an expression: "Independent as a hog on ice." That is what I have found living here for 30 years. The wealth of natural places, unique communities and people who bring a fierce independent spirit to the way they live life are all inspirations to me in making my films.

—**Huey**, MOVIEMAKER (*Wilderness & Spirit: A Mountain Called Katahdin*)

The quality of life is so high in Maine—and the area so beautiful with rich green forests and deep blue skies—that it makes any project challenge seem a lot less earth-shattering.

—**Franklin McMahon**, DIRECTOR (*Rumor Girls*)

Living and shooting a feature film in Maine gave me the opportunity to keep costs low. The freedom to shoot was outstanding and to add to the local

economy was a real treat. Growing up in Maine it was always my dream to shoot a movie here; with the help of the Maine Film Office and New England Casting, it came true—for under \$100,000!

—**James Stiles**, WRITER-DIRECTOR-ACTOR (*Web Girl, Trailer Trash*)

Moviemaking in Maine is a dream. It comes down to locations and people: The locations are stunning, the people are salt of the earth and extremely creative and prices are quite competitive.

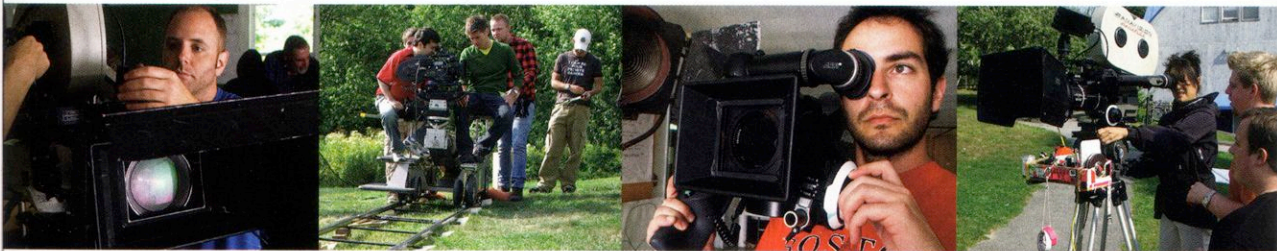
—**Richard Kane**, CINEMATOGRAPHER

What could be more appropriate than making horror films in the land of the "King" of horror? Maine's ancient Indian lands, looming colonials and spooky forests inspire your eeriest imaginings. Add in the state's incentives, which are spurring the film industry, and you have the perfect potion for producing spine-tingling cinema.

—**Laurie Notch**, WRITER-PRODUCER (*Cube Ghouls*)

MAINE AT-A-GLANCE SEE PAGE 100

MAINE MEDIA WORKSHOPS



Images © Mat Thorne & Russel O'Bryan, Images from Shooting Film & Camera Operators workshops, 2007



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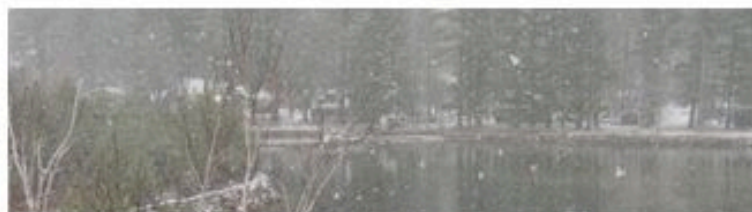
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EEK - Watch out for 'Willows Way'

By David Harry
Editor- Lakes Region Weekly

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NEW GLOUCESTER (Feb 1, 2008): Something eerie is coming to the farms and fields around Damariscotta.

Advertisement

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When the movie "Willows Way" arrives on DVD in late April, local film lovers can see mid-coast Maine as the setting of a science fiction story involving the consequences of returning the dead to life.

Better yet for producers Kevin and Ralph DiBacco, of the New Gloucester-based DiBacco Films, a just-announced deal with York Entertainment will take the 83-minute film to an international audience on DVD, in theaters and on TV.

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Industry News

Sat, 12/01/2007 - 01:00

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A report of news & happenings in the local industry for December 2007.

By [Erin Trahan](#)

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Email news to news@newenglandfilm.com.

This Just In

LA-based York Entertainment has secured worldwide distribution rights on *Willow's Way*, a sci-fi feature shot entirely in Maine by DiBacco Films. Specifics on the release are forthcoming. Meanwhile visit www.willowswaythemovie.com.



Bjort Productions (Saugus, MA) is hoping no one dies this weekend. Seriously. Because otherwise they'll lose their funeral home location for their second feature, *The Joneses*. The team has shot a few scenes already, and will reconvene for more fun and games after the New Year. Follow the progress of their neighbor-rivalry story [here](#).

Images Cinema in Williamstown, MA has issued a **call for T-shirt designs** to celebrate its 10th anniversary. The winning design will be awarded a cash prize and all-you-can-eat popcorn for a year! Images also has three special events planned for December: The Triple X-mas Film Show: X is for eXperimental film eXploring sexuality on December 2nd at 9 pm; *Bright Eyes*, a 1983 documentary about the sexual politics surrounding AIDS for World AIDS Day on December 3rd at 5 pm; and a trio of free holiday films -- *In the Month of Kiselev*, *Seven Candles for Kwanzaa*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas* on December 8th at 2 pm. Visit www.imagecinema.org.



Kevin DiBacco
Making a Feature Film under \$50,000

The majority of people will never get a studio deal for their first movie. "Making a movie for under \$50,000" will show you how to produce your own motion picture as a commercial product. From hiring the crew to casting to tips on what production software you should buy. You can produce your own script and you don't need a million dollars to do it. Topics include Development of your script, Pre-production and hiring your crew, Production techniques that will make your film look like it cost 10 times as much, and Post Production tips that will help make your movie attractive for distributors. No sense waiting for someone else to make your movie, you can do it by knowing where to cut corners and what you should be using.



Kevin DiBacco
Finding Distribution for your low budget film

Filmmaking is and always will be a business. The way you package your materials for the market is as important if not more important than your script. You will learn the science to packaging your film to market as a Commercial product and not just another art film -- from cutting an eye catching trailer, designing your movie poster, creating your cover letter, securing clearances and rights, designing your screener DVD label to what you should include in your screener DVD, what deliverables a distributor wants, what mailers to use and everything in between will be featured in this can't-be-missed information packed class!



Local TV station hits airwaves next week

DiBaccos run into some static on the way but show will go on

If Kevin and Ralph DiBacco of Windsor Locks need a blockbuster show to broadcast on their new low-power television station, they won't need to look far for material.

They can make a movie about their struggle just to get the station on the air, and the ratings will go through the roof. The entire scenario is a prime-time soap opera come to life.

**MATT
BUCKLER**



Ever since the DiBacco brothers received a permit from the Federal Communications Commission to operate a VHF station in north-central Connecticut, they've had to get past more hurdles than Edwin Moses.

They had to leave their original headquarters in Suffield because of a domestic dispute. Their next office was condemned by the fire department. They are currently facing a battle with Suffield residents over the location of their transmitting antenna.

"Normal people would have given up by now," Ralph DiBacco said.

But in the true tradition of television, the show must go on, and will go on.

making local commercials and music videos. Kevin, 33, is a 13-year veteran of the production business.

"In the summer of 1988, we were working on a low-budget feature film when we came across the concept of low power TV," Ralph said.

After putting an ad in a trade magazine, the DiBaccos came in contact with Harry Tootle, who assists people in acquiring licenses.

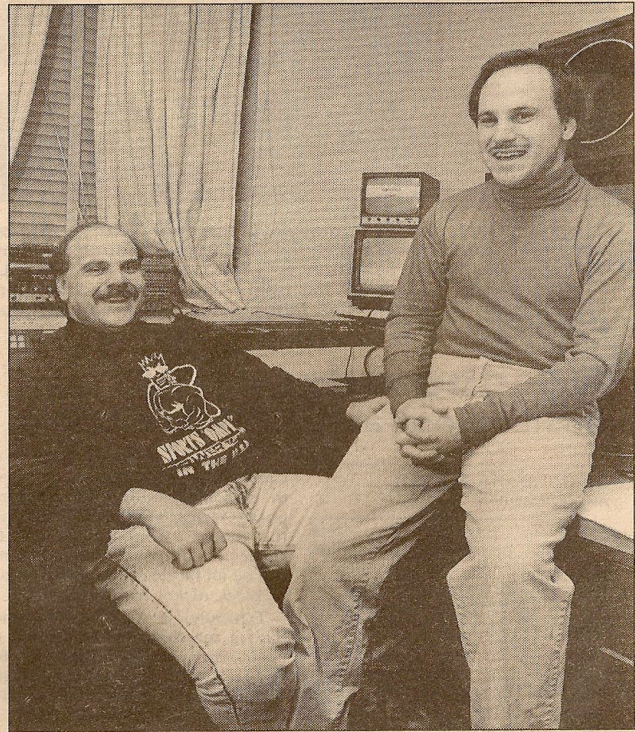
"At first, I showed the idea to my brother as a joke," Ralph said. "But he looked at it and decided to pursue it."

The DiBaccos did the necessary research to make sure the area was compatible for a new TV station. Then in December of 1989, they applied to the FCC for a construction permit.

On July 9, 1990, their wish was granted. Channel 12 was about to move from the drawing board to the living room.

There was plenty of static, however, along the way. The DiBaccos wanted to locate the station in a barn on Hill Street in Suffield owned by one of their friends. The man got divorced, however, and his wife owned the barn. Channel 12 received its first cancellation notice.

"We had no place to put our antenna," Ralph said. "But in our FCC permit, we were allowed a variance of 500 feet. So we approached the town of Suffield in the fall and tried to lease a plot of land we could use for our antenna."



John Dunn / Journal Inquirer

Kevin, left, and Ralph DiBacco have started a low-power local TV station in Suffield.

explaining current events. They will air Monday through Sunday at 8 a.m., Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m.