

A year in the Death of Jack Richards inspired by Jung

By MICHÈLE THIBEAU

For movie fans who like atmosphere and oddity onscreen, *A Year in the Death of Jack Richards* is just what the doctor ordered. And it's part of Quebec City's 3 Americas Film Festival March 30 to April 3.

The film's screenwriter and director B.P. (Benjamin) Paquette got the idea for the storyline from reading Carl Jung and his experiments on unsuspecting patients visiting his waiting room.

Those familiar with these experiments will be provided with an evening of Jungian special effects. The rest of the audience will actually be able to concentrate on the movie.

The film stars Vlasta Vrana, who played a role in Jeremy Peter Allen's *Manners of Dying*, and Micheline Lanctôt, who starred in *Women without Wings*, directed by local filmmaker Nicholas Kinsey.

"When you watch the film, it's not weird or creepy, there's no violence or bad guys, but there's this really

weird vibe, an uncomfortable thing," said Paquette.

"The story is about this guy who's losing his grip on reality. He moves from reality to non-reality — memories, thoughts, dreams and hallucinations," offered Paquette. "I think it's neat that most of us spend time in our day in non-reality. People call it drifting away, as if it's a bad thing; it seems very natural though. They don't know why you snap back to reality — sometimes you become very self-conscious that you're daydreaming."

A Year in the Death of Jack Richards "is set in Jack's head," he said. And that means that the audience will be a bit in the dark — or able to decide for themselves. "It allows for multiple interpretation, not that you don't know, but you have multiple answers," he

explained.

This is Paquette's first feature film



and it is one of a trilogy of films he has in production on the theme of the psychology of romance.

His label, Ourson films, may sound like a cute, fuzzy kid's movie label, but it reflects the refreshing point of view of this filmmaker,

originally from Sudbury, Ontario.

Ourson was the French nickname for Orson Wells where no one in France was familiar with the name Orson.

When he's not thinking film, B.P. Paquette works at Montreal's Trebas Institute; that's where he found most of his production crew: among the instructors, with help from some students on the set.

Jack Richards is the first of a trilogy of movies by Ourson films. The next films are Victoria Fleming's *The Woman of AHHS: A Self-Portrait* — a thinly disguised modern spoof on the *Wizard of Oz* (reread the title and check out the name of the director of the original movie). The third is entitled *The Anonymous Rudy S.* and is told in the second

person. Paquette is hoping to return to the 3 Americas Film

Festival next year with the film about Victoria Fleming.

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