

Eye for the Cinema

Huntington native has a hand in the making of an Oscar-nominated film

By ANGELA HENDERSON-BENTLEY
For The Herald-Dispatch

You probably already know that Sunday, Feb. 27, "Black Swan" will be one of the 10 movies vying for a Best Picture Academy Award. But what you may not know is that the film owes some of its visual effects to a Huntington native.

Brad Kalinoski is the fulltime staff compositing supervisor for LOOKFX NY.

"Basically I oversee all the artists that are assigned to specific shots in the film," he said. "For example, the director shoots the actors in downtown Huntington, but he wants it to look like they are standing in New York City. My job is to take that footage they shot, assign the tasks to artists and make sure that they create the correct look for the director's and visual effects supervisor's vision."



Courtesy of Brad Kalinoski

Huntington native Brad Kalinoski does visual effects in the movie and television industry. Some of his work includes "Black Swan," "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Spider-Man," "The Matrix" and the television show "Lost."

"Visual effects is all about being seamless in a movie, and that's what I like and love to do. If you can't tell where the visual effects start and end, like in 'Black Swan,' then we have done our job," he said.

Kalinoski has worked on more than 60 films including "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Spider-Man" and "The Matrix." But "Swan" was a different experience for him.

"'Black Swan' was probably one of the most difficult but rewarding films that I have had the pleasure of working on," Kalinoski said. "The director (Darren Aronofsky) is a perfectionist, and being such, he demanded everything be perfect down to the pixel. So it was very demanding. We sometimes worked 20-hour days. But once you see the work that you have put into this frame of film on the screen, you appreciate the long hours and days you put into it."

Kalinoski received a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award nomination for Best

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Brad Kalinoski
Visual Effects

Natalie Portman
in a scene from
"Black Swan."

The Associated Press



Eye

■ Continued from 3C

Achievement in Special Visual Effects and a Visual Effects Society award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Feature Motion Picture for his work on "Swan." He also received a VES award nomination for his work on the last season of the television series "Lost."

"I still can't really believe it. I'm actually humbled," Kalinoski said about the accolades. "But I think I'm also naive. I still can't realize the art I have created and what I have done. I feel like some people that didn't take me seriously about my work will now recognize that I'm for real."

One person who recognized Kalinoski's talent right away was his wife, Tinatsu Wallace. Kalinoski said he always knew

he wanted a career in entertainment, but he was disappointed by the lack of opportunities in the Huntington area. It was Wallace that convinced Kalinoski to leave the medical field and the local hospital where he was working.

"She saw the potential that I had, even though I didn't," he said. "She pushed me to take a chance and change careers."

The change continues to pay off as Kalinoski's slate is full for the foreseeable future. He is currently working on the films "Limitless" and "Fast Five" and will soon begin work on "The Muppets" movie, but Kalinoski has other plans for the future.

"My plan has and will always be to direct a film one day," he said. "It will happen, just not soon."

Kalinoski has already started working toward achieving another goal, bringing work to Huntington, by starting his own

company called Exodus FX. Currently, the company's only employee is his wife, but he is hoping to add more soon.

"I hope this year we will be able to bring some work to the area where we can hire and train people to do this type of

work," he said. "The one thing that will make this the best experience is to direct my films in Huntington or Charleston and have my successful studio right here where it all started," Kalinoski said. "Full circle. Completed."

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