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own unique approaches to filmmaking to make *Across the Whipplewash*. Emig leans more toward the visual aspect and physical art of making movies, while Drake gathers inspiration from storytelling and the history of film.

With a practically nonexistent budget, Drake and Emig recruited cast and crew members from their family and friends. "It was amazing to see how willing friends, family and the community were to help us out," says Drake. "Our friends flew out here from California and down from New England to help; they stayed in our little house and got little sleep so we could make this happen. It's been a great experience to see what supportive friends and family we have. The thank you list is going to be long."

Among their friends was acting veteran, Armen Weitzman. Weitzman has appeared in the *Sarah Silverman Program*, *Oceans 13*, *School for Scoundrels* and *Role Models*.

Drake and Emig hope to finish the editing process of *Across the Whipplewash* no later than this summer. Once completed, they plan to submit the film to some small film festivals around the country. A local screening for all those who helped in its making is also in the works.

"We got a lot of help from a lot of great people, most everyone in the area that we talked to was very excited to be part of the project and lend whatever they could manage," says Emig. "We wouldn't have been able to make it without the help of friends, family and the community."

For more information on *Across the Whipplewash*, check out acrossthewhipplewash.com. ~J. Klinger



LOCAL SCREENWRITER'S WORDS COME TO LIFE

For the past two years, *Harrisburg Magazine* has been following the screenwriting career of Lancaster native Rick Hansberry. Readers may remember past articles highlighting his two previous short films, *Chemistry* and *Chasing Forever*. With each movie Hansberry completes, his film resume gets longer and more impressive.

Hansberry's most recent addition to the world of cinema is *Branches*. Originally penned in 2003, the short is a holiday film about four life-long friends who make their annual journey into the woods to get their Christmas trees. "What happens during their adventure brings a timeless message of Christmas and friendship that often gets lost in the commercialism and busy stress of the

holidays," explains Hansberry. "We hope the film brings people together to watch with family and friends and maybe inspires someone to reconnect with someone that they have lost touch with."



With both *Chemistry* and *Chasing Forever* produced on the West Coast, Hansberry felt that it was time to bring his next production closer to home. Shot entirely at Crystal Spring Tree Farm in Lehighton, Pa., *Branches* brings that familiar wintery East Coast holiday feel to life.

Over a cold weekend last February, Hansberry, Director Chris Messineo and a cast and crew of 90 braved the snow-filled tree farm to complete the shooting of *Branches*. By overcoming the many challenges of filming on location in the snow, the *Branches* team captured the perfect mood for this quintessential holiday flick.

The narration talents of Daniel Stern – famous for his roles in *Home Alone* and 1984's *Diner*, among numerous others, and his voiceover skills on the television classic *The Wonder Years* – provides the strong heartfelt emotion that Hansberry envisioned when writing the *Branches* screenplay seven years ago.

By seeing his words come to life on film, Hansberry is truly living his dream of writing for the screen. "We hope that this film becomes a part of people's holiday tradition," Hansberry says. "Something that people will watch and enjoy together after Thanksgiving or a holiday celebration. We wanted to make a timeless film that will work as well this year as it does 10 or 20 years from now."

For more information on Hansberry's movie or to get your very own copy of *Branches*, visit branchesmovie.com. ~J. Klinger



MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

Award-winning composer, Chris Purcell has penned a new song entitled, *Under the Susquehanna Moon*, which recently debuted at the Starry Starry Night event held at Fort Hunter. The song captures the



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