

film review

BY: LAURA COOK

Cellular



In an age of modern technology where a cell phone is a common form of communication, *Cellular* may make audience members reconsider being accessible all the time. For beach bum Ryan (played by Chris Evans), his ringing cell phone could only mean his ex-girlfriend (played by Jessica Biel) calling him to get back together. Lost in his own little world of beaches and buddies, Ryan gets a rude awakening when a kidnapped stranger calls him for help on his cell phone. With a bit of convincing, Ryan agrees to help the kidnapped biology teacher out of her predicament. She is locked in the attic above her kidnappers and using a smashed up phone to communicate.

Using techniques that even James Bond would be jealous of, Kim Basinger's character Jessica Martin manages to twist and tap wires together to contact the outside world. After finally getting Ryan's cell phone on the line, she begins to worry about her child being kidnapped at school, sending Ryan to search for him. The ensuing string of events takes Ryan on an amazing race all over Los Angeles. Throughout the film, he is forced to deal with unexpected barriers such as tunnels, battery failures, vehicle theft, and crossed signals on his cell phone conversation to Jessica. Along with these barriers, various high-speed chases and close encounters with the kidnappers all contribute to the suspenseful storyline of the film.

In a tale of high-speed chases and dirty cops, director David E. Ellis manages to use a mixture of camera techniques that add further suspense and intensity to the ambience of the film. His use of eye level panning and quick cutting to an over the shoulder shot positions the audience in the role of Jessica's character. This enhances the compassion the audience has for her character and definitely contributes to cheering Ryan on in the quest to destroy the 'bad guys'.

Although this film is rated PG-13 for violence, terror situations and language, anyone who loves a good car chase and wants to get their heart racing should definitely see this film before it leaves theatres!

India's answer to Hollywood comes to Nassagaweya

Bollywood filmmakers transform Nassagaweya farm

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

A farm in Nassagaweya as one of the settings for a Bollywood movie? If it sounds strange, it's not when you speak with the cast and crew and to the owners of Windrush Farm, a bed and breakfast on Second Line.

This fall, a little bit of India descended on Judy and George Marsh's farm when they decided to play host to the cast and crew for a movie. Judy says she has enjoyed experiencing a different culture and that includes sampling Indian dishes prepared by the wife of one of the cast members.

The movie, entitled *Player*, includes 13 main characters as well as 350 extras, all of whom are Canadian; however, the actors and the crew members are all of Indian descent and well versed in the traditional culture of the northern province of Punjab.

The film, which is produced by a company making its first movie in Canada, relates a story in Punjabi, the native language of Punjab province. And the plot is standard fare for Bollywood productions: there's music and dancing; a central male and female character involved in a love story, as

well as the main plot which details the life of one young man – in this case the *Player* – who finds a newfound sense of confidence and overcomes his fears.

Hardil Dhanoa, the film's associate producer and assistant director, says the story is set in Canada and deals with the life of J.D. (played by Ritesh Singh), who belongs to an immigrant family. In the beginning, his is a sad tale. At a low point in his life, J.D. is going through a depressing period where he began experimenting with alcohol and drugs. "He is going into depression because of neglect," says Hardil. "His parents are working too hard to give him a successful life. So he is subsiding into himself."

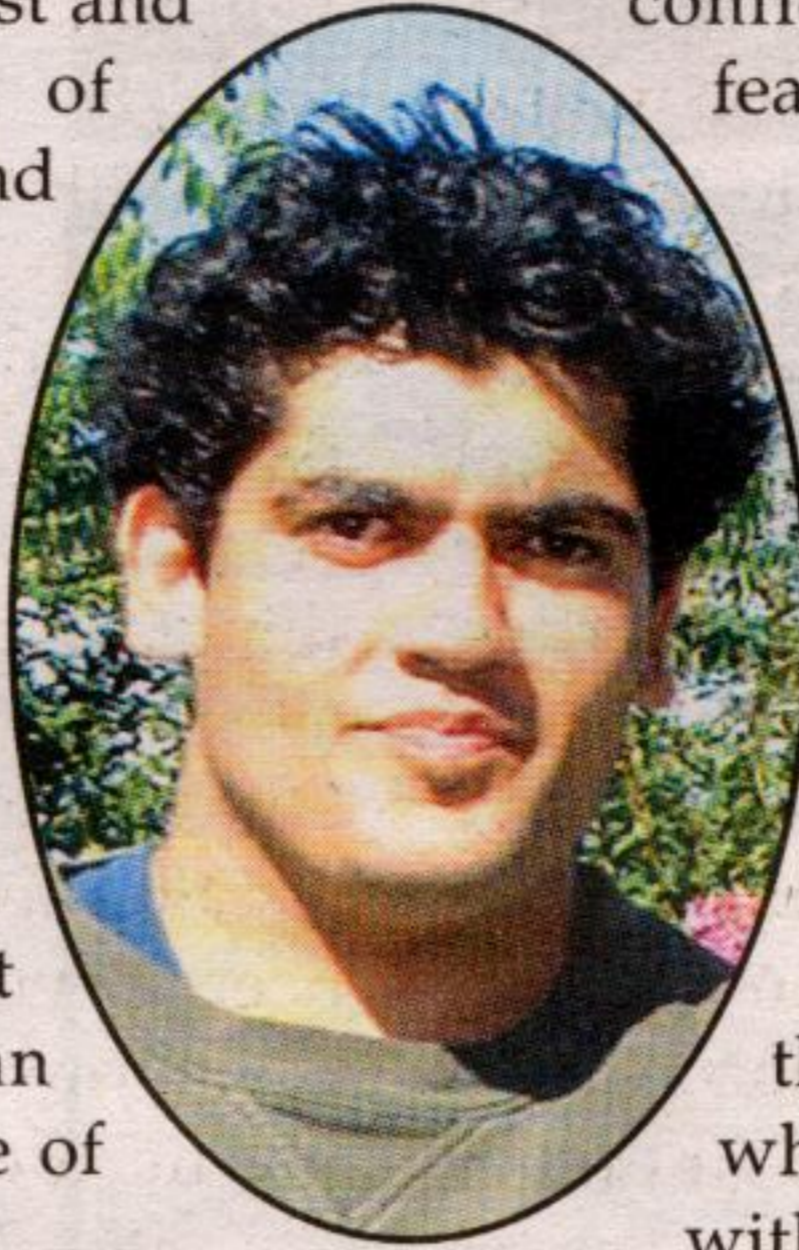
But his life begins to change when he decides to take up the traditional ancestral game of Punjab province, known as Kabaddi. The sport, which Hardil describes as the Punjabi equivalent of hockey, is akin to a mixture of American football and

wrestling. "It's like a religion to Punjabis."

Right in the heart of Nassagaweya, J.D.'s transformation begins at the farm of his trainer, a man who instils confidence in him. Then there's his love interest played by the female lead, Shruti Bhalla. Her character, Satwant, helps him through this dark period in his life and the story of their increasing affection for one another is played out, in part, at the Marsh's farm. The fictional Satwant is the granddaughter of the trainer. "She is rooting for him. She is making him believe in himself," said Bhalla.

For obvious reasons, Hardil won't give away the entire story, but it's not hard to tell from the plot that there's a happy ending to this movie. No, the happy ending doesn't take place in Nassagaweya, but J.D.'s love life and his fortunes do start to change right at the Marsh's farm.

The film, which is being shot at two locations in the GTA as well as in Nassagaweya, is costing an estimated \$200,000. The movie is due out in theatres sometime next month.



Ritesh Singh



Shruti Bhalla



PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Nassagaweya residents, Judy and George Marsh, got to play host this season to the cast and crew of a Bollywood movie. The low budget production tells the story of a young man, known as J.D., who is battling depression until he takes up a sport well known in India called kabaddi. From left to right: Mahesh Kumar (who plays the comedian), Rachhpal Brar (the coach in the film), Ritesh Singh (the male lead), Shruti Bhalla (the female character Satwant), director Param Chall, director of photography Ben Girm, Harjinder Bansal (the trainer), Paapee (the farm worker and van driver), and associate producer and assistant director Hardil Dhanoa (portrays character of Jeeta).