

Rampage takes a swing at comedy

The Foursome will be the 11th film from the
Vancouver company

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Vancouver production company Rampage Entertainment, recently named one of B.C.'s top exporters of 2005, next month begins shooting its 11th film, the \$4-million golf comedy *The Foursome*, a movie adaptation of the Norman Foster stage play.

Jackson Davies, who performed in the Vancouver stage play, is writing the screenplay for *The Foursome*, which will star Christian Slater and three yet-to-be-named Canadian actors.

Once that film is finished, Rampage will embark on its largest project to date, partnering with Ivan Reitman's Montecito Pictures to make the \$50-million comedy *Drake Diamond - Exorcist for Hire*. Rampage expects to begin production on that film in 2006.

Both projects will be shot in B.C., and Rampage is negotiating distribution deals in the U.S., something the company has managed to get for most of its films, usually by partnering with another company.

One of the company's earliest films, *The Raffle* (1994), was distributed in the U.S. by A-Pix Entertainment. *The Stag*, a 1997 production starring Andrew McCarthy and Mario Van Peebles, was handled by Lions Gate Films.

"We deal in the international marketplace," says Gavin Wilding, who began Rampage Entertainment in 1994 "in a 400-square-foot apartment with a Murphy bed and a cell phone."

Wilding feels that a movie should have appeal outside of Canadian borders.

"If you just make a movie for a Canadian audience, you're short-shrifting the audience," says Wilding, who cites Montecito's *Trailer Park Boys: The Movie*, as a good example of a Canadian project with international appeal.

"We live here, we love it here, but we finance in the international marketplace," says Wilding.

Rather than service U.S. studios, Rampage builds projects from concept to completion. Wilding's company has done \$150 million in production in 11 years.

All but four of its 11 productions were made in B.C., with three shot in Saskatchewan and one in New York.

Rampage Entertainment is one of three Vancouver film and television companies in the running for the B.C. Export Awards, an annual competition staged by the provincial Ministry of Economic Development and the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME). Also nominated in the New Media & Entertainment category are Shavick/Insight Studios, which has a full slate of TV series and films made for Canadian and American audiences, and Vancouver Film Studios.

The 21 nominees and the winners in the seven categories will be honoured at a gala luncheon on Nov. 25, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Last year, Electronic Arts Canada won in the New Media & Entertainment category.

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