

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT****Euro power:**

Deborah Harry recently produced the short film *Tall Tale Heart*, a remake of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell Tale Heart*, which was accepted into the Cannes Film Festival. A second recent project, *Flavour of Life*, was filmed at Burnaby Village Museum.

Larry Wright / Burnaby NOW

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**Making her mark on local film**

John Kurucz, staff reporter

Deborah Harry's multi-faceted career is on a roll.

The Burnaby resident, who works in the film industry and owns her own talent agency, recently had her first short film accepted into the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Though the film - entitled the *Tall Tale Heart* - will not be included in the festival's competition, it will be featured in the short film market.

"I'm absolutely thrilled," Harry said. "It will get really good exposure in the marketplace."

The film will be played for buyers, distributors and filmmakers on a daily basis throughout the festival, running from May 11 to May 22.

The 18-minute short film, for which Harry is the creative producer, is a horror-comedy adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's popular short story, *The Tell Tale Heart*.

"It's funny and poetic at the same time," Harry said. "People who know who Edgar Allan Poe is love the film."

To top things off, Harry's involvement in the Lower Mainland's film industry was recognized at a recent Women in Film and Video in Vancouver (WIFVV) awards banquet.

Harry received the Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member Award at the Spotlight Awards Gala on April 29. The annual award is given to

members of the group in recognition of their support and for advancing the organization's goals in the B.C. film and television community.

"It's really a recognition of how fundamental Deborah's involvement has been with Women in Film," said Sara McIntyre, president of WIFVV. "She has been visible within our organization for a number of years."

Harry has been involved with Women in Film for a number of years and has sat on the group's board of directors and served as vice-president. Her contributions were recognized once before as well, as she received the group's Volunteer of the Year award in 2001.

But Harry's no stranger to the industry, as her successful careers in fashion and film-making have spanned almost two decades. She modelled in Europe for a few years before opening her Toronto-based modelling agency - Mode Models Inc. - all before turning 21. Upon moving to Vancouver some years later, Harry noticed a lacklustre market for fashion.

"There wasn't really a fashion industry here 12 years ago," Harry said.

She started off by establishing a booking agency for movie extras, but before long, she was booking primary talent under the auspices of her own company, Deborah Harry Talent Agency.

Harry's self-owned and operated agency represents roughly 45 actors and actresses, writers and directors, most of whom are based in the Lower Mainland.

As for what's on the horizon, Harry's future plans include work, work and more work.

She is currently filming her second short film, Flavour of Life, which is set in Hungary during the Second World War. The film depicts the true story of one family's struggle to cope with the conditions in a war-torn country. She plans on submitting the film to the Berlin Film Festival and possibly even to the Academy Awards.

After production wraps up on Flavour of Life, Harry will concentrate on Sharp as Marbles, a coming-of-age film documenting the lives of three men and their adventures into manhood.

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