

# CAUGHT ON FILM

BY MARGOT C. LESTER

## FILM SPOTLIGHT: SCRAPS

Sometimes a seemingly random encounter leads to a creative pursuit. Such was the case when local screenwriter Kate Burgauer, then 16, saw a homeless woman on a city bus.

"She was talking to herself loudly and alienating most of the bus riders," recalls Burgauer, who now resides in Chapel Hill. "But I found her fascinating because she was carrying a large bag with words written or sewed onto it. I didn't have a chance to speak with her since she got off the bus at the next stop, but the image never left my mind."

Charged with writing a short script for a college class, Burgauer recalled the encounter and penned the story that would become *Scraps*. The screenplay features a woman named Eva who chooses to live on the streets, doing small good deeds. She carries with her a bag – emblazoned with writing and embroidery – full of small items that she gives to others.

*Scraps* won two awards at the 2011 Carrboro Film Festival: The festival committee recognized the work for its cinematography and festival attendees gave the film one of two Audience Choice Awards.

### BEHIND THE CAMERA

*Scraps*' award-winning cinematography was created by Kevin Duggin of Columbia, Mo. A graduate of the American Film Institute and the Brooks Institute of Photography, Duggin collaborated with Los Angeles-based director Danny Safady to create the look and feel of the film.

"Our visual inspiration came from a lot of urban street photography," Duggin explains. "There was a lot of texture and vibrancy in those photos. We really wanted to incorporate that as much as possible. From the onset Danny and I knew we were going to be using a lot of handheld camera. We also wanted to hint at Eva's creativity and imagination with the use of a steadycam."

A steadycam is a setup that allows an operator to mount the camera on a stabilizing rig that absorbs shaking or bumps, producing a smoother, steadier image than a handheld.

### ON LOCATION

The result is a high-budget feel on a low-budget film. To keep production costs low, *Scraps* was shot at a production studio in Columbia run by a friend of Duggin's, Randy Siquefield. The lower-cost location enabled the crew to save a lot of money on certain elements of the production design, including a bus, which the city donated to the project.

"In Los Angeles, it would have cost us upwards of \$8,000 to rent the bus for the day," Duggin laughs. "That was our entire budget."

The location shoot had another, unexpected, benefit. On the day they were to film the bus scenes, they still hadn't cast the role of the driver.

"When the bus arrived, the actual driver caught Danny's eye," Duggin remembers. "He scrambled, got our main actress and the driver together and ran through the scenes. The driver was a natural and Danny cast her on the spot!"

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

*Scraps* is currently on the festival circuit. It will be



Kevin Duggin creates the award-winning cinematography for *Scraps*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN DUGGIN



Still images from the film *Scraps*, shot on location in Columbia, Mo.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN DUGGIN

screened later this month at the Sedona International Film Festival as part of its Wonderful and Weird Shorts program. Burgauer is looking for a director and production company for her feature screenplay, *Vinyl*, about a sensationalist reporter whose life changes after befriending a washed-up rock star. Duggin's third feature film, *Removal*, stars Billy Burke, late of the *Twilight* movies, and is debuting this month.



Eva, the main character in *Scraps*, chooses to live on the streets, doing small good deeds and carrying a bag full of small items that she gives to others.

FILM POSTER COURTESY OF KEVIN DUGGIN



# SPOTLIGHT



## Emilie Autumn

For those of you looking for a bombshell performance that will shake you to the very core – or for those anxiously awaiting her marvelous return to Carrboro – international violinist Emilie Autumn will bring her highly anticipated act to Cat's Cradle on Thursday, Feb. 16.

And what a performance it will be. Autumn's reinvention of gothic musicianship creates an eerie theatrical atmosphere that is used as social

commentary, to say the least. Her vocals and costuming combine to create a startling Victorian-burlesque style that indeed shatters the perimeters of "normal."

Get ready for the electric violin solos, put on your black combat boots, and prepare for the goose bumps provided by Emilie Autumn. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 the day of the show.



# SPOTLIGHT



## Samantha Crain

If your heart melted the first time you heard folksinger Samantha Crain raising the sun at Shakori Hills, then you're in luck – she's making her way back to the Piedmont with her guitar in one hand and harmonica in the other.

Crain pours out emotive stories about home with every breath while masterfully picking her guitar, crafting songs that will sway your body with each beat. Amplifying her tender yet

powerful delivery is a team of multi-talented artists creating the most dynamic sounds.

Whatever mood you find yourself in on Tuesday, Feb. 7, these talented folks will make you never want to leave Local 506.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and the show starts at 9. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.



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