

'Wake' script finally comes to life

Work begins this week on Omagh film-maker's dark-humoured project

BY JOHN McCUSKER

CAMERAS began rolling this week on a new film project being shot entirely within the Omagh area. *Crashing The Wake* gives a 15-minute insight into the complexities and dark humour associated with a typically Irish wake. The project is the brainchild of local film-maker Chris Baugh, from Tullyrush Road, who has planned the venture for his final year of a Film and Production university degree.

Set in a typical Irish wakehouse, the plot examines the conflict and rivalry which develops following the death of a local businessman. Battle lines are drawn between the deceased's son, played by Armagh actor Philip Campbell, and the dead man's employee, played by Chris McMahon, after the employee is left the business in the will. Also among the nine-strong cast of principal actors is Brieger Bradley, from Newtownstewart, who takes on the role of the deceased's daughter.

Last week the directors worked with the crew and art department in

setting up rehearsals with actors and actresses. Filming began on Monday at Tullyrush Road and continues this weekend when the funeral scene will be shot on location at a laneway in the Tattyreagh area.

It is planned to enter to film in festivals over coming months and it will be screened in Omagh next February.

Film producer, Chee Cheung said everyone involved was delighted at the enthusiastic response shown to the entire crew over recent weeks.

"The community has really embraced this project," he said. "Although it has been a very exhausting experience, it has also been very exciting for everyone involved to see the

project coming from script to life over the past eight months.

"The cast is a combination of up-and-coming talent and I hope they will take something from their experience and perhaps this will become a launch pad for other working projects in the future."

Co-writer and co-director, Norwegian Arnstein Dybvik is equally enthusiastic about the film's successes. "From an outside perspective, this is

Film extras needed

THE film crew behind *Crashing the Wake* is anxious to recruit about 100 extras to take part in filming of the funeral procession this weekend.

Those applying should be over 30 years of age and be prepared to dress in typical fashion for a funeral. Further information can be obtained by telephoning Alexia on 07791 209183.



not stereotypical Irish, but a new approach which will appeal to a wide audience," he said.

ASSISTANCE

Since the film was first mooted during the summer, the crew has been inundated with offers of help and assistance. Local men, Leo Don-

aghy and Paddy Montague, who have experience in dealing with undertaking and funerals, have offered an invaluable insight into the psyche of the Irish wake. Help has also come from media students at Omagh College, Arri Media, the Coach Inn, Pollocks, the Bank of Ireland and other businesses around the district.

Filming in progress on location for the film 'Crashing the Wake' this week. Included are local actors Paddy Montague as Frank (the corpse), Finn McKay as Matty, Abi Blythe as Sara and crew members Stephen Nugent, Camera Operator, and Chris Baugh and Arnstein Dybvik, who both co-wrote and directed the film.