

Student filmmaker produces sci-fi flick

by Chuck Foley

What do a frisbee, a toaster-oven and a credit card have in common?

All three were necessary to the production of UNLV film student Gabriel Campisi's film, "The Law," which cost just under \$10,000 to make.

He wrote, directed and produced the film which stars fellow students Alejandro Aragonéz and Daisy Campisi (his sister), financing the film with a minimum of resources.

His UFO-inspired film calls for many special effects, including spaceships and robots.

"The miniature (spaceship) was just a Frisbee with a cardboard jacket and colored gels for windo ports," said Campisi.

For the robots, he used a combination of scrap metal and appliances.

"They're a couple of steroid sucking toaster-ovens with attitudes," he said.

It was shot in 3/4 inch video and financed mostly with his credit card. He also traded work he did for Kerby Brothers Production in return for editing time, which he said cut the costs immensely.

The story centers around a man who is on his way to Las Vegas from Los Angeles. He tells some people he meets

that he is "running from the law."

Except that "the law" is not what these people expect.

The storyline is inspired by the "Star Wars" films Campisi watched as a child, and by French UFO-author Jacques Vallee, who was depicted in the film E.T.

"UFO's are not my whole thing," he said.

He started doing films at the age of 10 in Super 8mm. At 13 he entered a film in the 1985 Chicago Photographic Society of America Teenage Film Festival. Against more than 200 filmmakers, his film was selected in the top five.

Campisi said plans are being made to enter "The Law" in film festivals where he hopes to get recognition and notoriety and meet with directors and other "mainstream people."

"At this point, it's definitely a labor of love," he said. "The truth is, if you can dream it, you can achieve it."



UNLV film student Gabriel Campisi (sitting) has finished his "labor of love," the film *The Law* starring Alejandro Aragonéz and Daisy Campisi.

If you think I'm boring, then you should see the movies I've rated. But even if you don't want to see them, you can still see me Thursdays in Tempest.

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