

Boone-based producer's "labor of love"

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Boone-based producer Gary Wheeler is taking a trip down the red carpet Thursday- it's the premiere of his latest film, *The List*.

Wheeler got his start right here in the High Country. Originally from Charlotte, Wheeler went to Appalachian State University in 1987.

While ASU did not have a film program- he took broadcasting classes to get his hands on a camera.

Get his hands on a camera he did- Wheeler made several films in college. While he claimed most of them were "bad," he obviously got better. *Final Solution*, a film shot in South Africa, won the Crystal Heart Award at Heartland Film Festival.

Wheeler expects great things from his latest film, shot in Wilmington.

It involves good people, a good cast and crew, he says.

Those good people include Malcolm McDowell of *Clockwork Orange* fame.

It was truly a labor of love, Wheeler says of the piece he produced, co-wrote and directed.

When not slating on set- Wheeler relaxes in Boone with his wife, also an ASU graduate.

Boone is an artistic place- a calming environment. It's hard to create art in a stressful place, Wheeler says.

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The film premieres Thursday- and will open for the public August 10.