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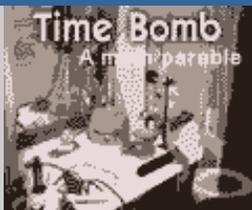
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## Action! Film festival shoots through town

### Competitors allowed 24 hours to create a 7-minute 'Shoot Out' movie

By Brittany Anas, Camera Staff Writer  
October 24, 2004

Boulder was a stage this weekend.

In an alley near 13th and Pearl Streets on Saturday afternoon, 29-year-old Matt Scull was dressed in black, playing the part of an archdemon. Around the corner, a man wearing pantyhose over his head was staging a mugging.

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"The Shoot Out," a 24-hour filmmaking festival that is modeled after Australian events, hit the Pearl Street Mall, Chautauqua Park and other popular landmarks in the city. Boulder was the first American city to

hold the contest, in which films are made in a fast and furious fashion, downplaying the role of technology, organizers said.

Filmmakers from 74 teams began bustling around Boulder at 9:43 p.m. Friday. They had exactly one day to produce a 7-minute movie, with strict guidelines on where their scenes needed to be shot.

Varsity Pond on the University of Colorado's campus, the clock tower at Eads Smoke shop on 28th Street and Canyon Boulevard and RedFish, 2027 13th St., were among some of the locations filmsters could choose from.

In Scull's movie, "Reapers," he played an archdemon who collected souls from people as they were dying. In the flick, he and Brian Watson, an archangel, are like business partners. They are the first to arrive at death scenes, bottling up souls they collect in plastic tubes. They use cotton balls to depict the souls, and at the end of their work day, they send them to either heaven or hell in a homemade vacuum chute.

"We had a basic structure and script for the film, but we pretty much winged it," said Watson, as they were shooting their last scene Saturday afternoon.

At 9:43 p.m. Saturday, organizers stationed outside the Boulder County Courthouse on Pearl Street did a countdown to turn tapes in.

One man quietly turned away after his movie was literally a minute too late.

Some teams slipped their projects in with just minutes to spare. "Dude, we made it!" said Dino Tsaoyis, a 23-year-old film student at the University of Colorado. "We literally just finished in time."

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Tsaoyis and his team crafted a film about a girl "who played leapfrog with death." She played chess, gin rummy and leapfrog with an actor who the group said "personified death." In a final scene, the girl loses, and is pushed into Boulder Creek, shivering as the group filmed.

A team of judges were set to select 10 finalists by today.

The top 10 films will be shown at 7 p.m. tonight at the Boulder Theater, 2032 14th St. Tickets cost \$14.95. The team with the best film will receive a \$5,500 video editing system.

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