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Multi-talented filmmaker readying his next short

Halifax actor-writer-director-comedian Pardis Parker spent Wednesday and Thursday shooting his next short film in Halifax at the CBC building on Bell Road.

Parker says it's called *The Dance* and is a romantic comedy with no dialogue about a guy who spends his days trying to be what he thinks the girl of his dreams wants him to be.

Parker is writing, directing, producing and starring in the film with Evany Rosen of *Picnicface*. Cinematography is by Christopher Porter (*Roller Town*) and costumes and wardrobe are designed by Anna Gilkerson (*Deux FM* and *Makenew*).

Parker's two previous short films — *Afghan* and *Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns* — have picked up awards at festivals in Canada and the United States over the last couple of years.

Two Men screened as a rough cut at the Atlantic Film Festival in 2009. It stars John Dunsworth (*Trailer Park Boys*) and Levi MacDougall (*Important Things with Demetri Martin*) as well as Sherry Smith, Murlane Carew and Christopher Bearne, and is a comedy about an unexpected visitor who interrupts a family's quiet day at the farmhouse.

Music was composed and scored by Asif Illyas and produced by Shehab and Asif Illyas of Mir, with cinematography by Porter.

Afghan was the first film written and directed by Parker. It stars Parker and *Picnicface* frontman Mark Little and was a finalist in the CBC Short Film Face-Off in 2009 and won best short film at the 2009 ViewFinders Film Festival in Halifax. It's about two friends, hate crimes and humour.

Earlier this year, *Afghan* won first place at the Imago Film Festival in Illinois, was a finalist at the Margaret River Shorts Film Festival in Australia, won the People's Choice Award at the Big Dam Film Festival in Illinois, and was a juror pick at the Buttered Corn on the Cob Film Festival, also in Illinois.

Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns was also a juror pick at the Buttered Corn on the Cob Film Festival, won best comedy at the Griffon International Film Festival in Missouri and was a finalist at the Tallahassee Film Festival.

The films earned five nominations from the upcoming World Music and Independent Film Festival in Washington.

Afghan earned Parker nominations for best actor and screenplay and Little as best supporting actor. *Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns* received nominations for Parker for director and Dunsworth for best actor.

Implants, a two-minute single-shot piece starring Parker and Rosen, with cinematography by

Tarek Abouamin, was also a finalist at the Margaret River Shorts Film Festival, making Parker the first filmmaker with two finalists at the event.

In 2010, Parker picked up four Canadian Comedy Award nominations for best standup newcomer, best performance by a male in a film and best writing for a film (Afghan), and best direction of a film (Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns).

Recent credits include performing on Moderation Town, the Halifax-shot web series for Showcase, and roles in Rohan Fernando's feature film Snow, which had its world premiere at the Cinequest Film Festival in California earlier this month, and the upcoming Afghan Luke from Trailer Park Boys creator Mike Clattenburg and Picnicface's Roller Town.

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