

FILMMAKER™

TWENTY FIVE

New Faces OF Indie Film

1999

Eva Brezski — director, *24 Girls*
Tom E. Brown — director, *Das Clown*
James Chinlund — production designer
Nina Ganatra — director, *Chutney Popcorn*
Jennifer Gentile — director, *My Pretty Little Girlfriend*
Tom Hodges — actor/director, *Shoot the Moon*
Joel Hopkins — writer/director, *Jorge*
Lindsay Jewett — director, *Hurricane Belle*
David Kaplan — writer/director, *Little Red Riding Hood*
Kurt Kuenne — writer/director/composer, *Scrapbook*
Karyn Kusama — director, *Girlfight*
Tom Krueger — director/cinematographer

Matthew Libatique — cinematographer
Hiedi Van Lier — writer/director, *Chi Girl*
Erik Loyer — website designer
Janet McTeer — actor
Angela Robinson — director, *The Kinsay 3*
Shari Roman & Sophie Fiennes — directors, *Lars from 1-10*
Theodore Shapiro — composer
Patrick Stettner — writer/director, *Flux*
Hilary Swank — actor
Jim Tobias — installation artist
Jonathan Weiss — director, *The Atrocity Exhibition*
Wash Westmoreland — director, *The Fluffer*

Kurt Kuenne

In Kurt Kuenne's *Scrapbook*, Justin Ulrich and Eric Balfour deliver terrific performances as brothers whose relationship is strained by their affection for the same girl, played by Keili Lefkowitz. Ulrich ("3rd Rock from the Sun") and Balfour ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Dawson's Creek") are familiar faces from their work on television, and are just beginning to break out in films like *Carrie II*, *Speedway Junky* (Ulrich), and *Can't Hardly Wait* (Balfour), but the little-seen *Scrapbook* — which has played surprisingly few fests since its debut in Palm Springs last year and is still without distribution — is a remarkable showcase for their talent. Twenty-five-year-old Kurt Kuenne — who wrote, directed, co-produced, edited, and scored the film — "strikes a compelling balance of youthful angst and surprisingly mature humor" (*Variety*) in his debut feature, which explores the complexities of male bonding in a secondary school context.

Originally from San Francisco, now living in Burbank, CA, Kuenne began making films at age seven and completed numerous feature-length videos, including the award winning *On the Air*, while still in high school. A cult hit about two brothers who run a radio station out of their high school, *On the Air* provided the inspiration and characters for *Scrapbook*, but tells an entirely different story. "I loved those characters so much that I wanted to give them the story they deserved," Kuenne has said. "One of the reasons *On the Air* was so well received is that I was in high school when I made it. I was able to connect with my audience because I was my audience. And I wanted to make *Scrapbook* as soon as possible in order to stay as

truthful to the material as possible."

Scrapbook would take a little longer to realize than he expected, but it remained a central preoccupation while Kuenne honed his craft at USC. During his senior year at USC, Kuenne also produced a celebrated short, *Remembrances* — about the flood of memories a father experiences after the family pet dies — which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival in 1995 and caught the eye of Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis, who offered welcome encouragement.

While Kuenne develops his next feature project — he just completed a script that he describes as a ghost story, and is now writing a mystery — he has been much in demand as a composer. (He studied Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television at the USC's School of Music.) Kuenne recently scored a restored version of *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1927) for Oscar-winning film preservationist David H. Shepard; the score was premiered by the San Diego Symphony and the film will be reissued on video by Kino International. And he is currently scoring *Preston Tylk*, an indie thriller starring Luke Wilson, Dennis Farina, Norman Reedus and Mili Avital. ▼ — Steve Gallagher

