

# Mark's movie not far removed from reality

## Film to be shown worldwide

By Marie-Claire Jones

AN ABERDEEN film-maker is being tipped for the top as he puts the finishing touches to his latest movie.

Mark Stirton's *One Day Removals*, is almost ready to be released for showings at movie festivals all over the world.

And the *Evening Express* was the first invited to get a look at the long-awaited project.

Featuring broad Doric accents, the story follows the escapades of two Aberdeen removal men.

It was filmed on location in and around the city as well as featuring 37-year-old Mark's Garthdee home.

He said: "Scottish film-makers have often been guilty of making depressing, boring films in the past.

"I go along to festivals and it's all films about gangsters and drug addicts.

"Let's be loud and proud I say. Lets show the fun side of being Scottish."

This is not the first time Mark, pictured below, has used hometown town for locations in his films.

His last one, *The Planet*, saw him turn Balmedie Beach into a barren, alien land.

The low budget sci-fi flick cost only £8,000 to make, but ended up being distributed worldwide.

Its success saw Mark secure £100,000 from Canny Film Productions, an offshoot of Norwell Engineering, to make *One Day Removals* and inundated with offers of scripts, from aspiring movie-makers.

He is now finalising plans for showings in Aberdeen next month and at national and international film festivals during the year.

He said: "It took one month to write, another three to film, and about six months to edit."

As part of his research, Mark spent time with real Aberdeen removal men.

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## Moving tale full of dead bodies

TILLYDRONE high-rises, Stockethill streets and the Seaton Bar.

Not the glamorous locations you would usually associate with a big movie.

But then *One Day Removals* is full of ambition – and quite rightly so.

This little indie flick has just the right mix of dark social comedy and slapstick humour to see it hit the big time.

It follows the extraordinary story of removal men Andy and Ronnie – two of the city's rough diamonds – as they set off on the biggest job of their lives and leave a trail of devastation – and bodies – in their wake.

Not for the faint-hearted nor the lily-livered, this is a bold movie with a dialogue so raw it could make Billy Connolly blush.

Family man Andy, (whose blue eyes are bound to win the hearts of women movie-goers everywhere) is a man on a mission to get the worst day of his life over with, so he can get home in time for tea. His efforts aren't helped by the hapless Ronnie who might have his heart in the right place, but has a fuse shorter than Basil Fawlty.

This film draws the viewer in further with every scene and all with two heroes you are rooting for until the last. Aberdonians will love this film. And the rest of the world better watch out!

**MOVIE MAGIC:** Scott Ironside, left, and Patrick Wight in *One Day Removals* by filmmaker Mark Stirton.