



Writer Nick Ward displays one of his mother's hauls of garage sale bargains.

Cameo role for writer

Shannon Gillies

Script writer Nick Ward has put on two and a half kilos to play his part in a film that captures the essence of the Kapiti Coast.

Ward arrived back in Kapiti to play a cameo role in his film after scoping the slopes near Queenstown with MTV for a snowboarding film.

"I put on six pounds to play the part, ironically I play a guy having a garage sale."

The film aimed to reflect aspects of the relationship between his mum and sister.

It may help break the negative stereotype of New Zealand productions. "I had been approached by a producer saying 'why don't we do [happy] films', and why don't we? So I sat down and wrote this film about my family.

"I took it to so many producers and so many funding bodies and no one wanted to fund it. They said maybe if one of the major characters got cancer, maybe if there was some incest, or certain issues of women of a certain age who hadn't married, all this rubbish.

"You talk about the stakes not being high enough, but it's a movie about family – which is something important to all of us. I'd understand if I had written something about drugs and no one wanted to touch it, but this was a really feel-good family movie."

He thought the script would be left to gather dust until he gave it to director Paul Murphy, "just as an example of my work.

"He's moved heaven and earth, him and producer Kerry Robins together have raised funds and people have gotten behind it,

"It's all private investment, everyone's working for free on this film, all the money they're getting they're putting into the production.

"They're using high-end equipment, this isn't going to look like a string-end movie. What I've seen so far the acting's really charming. I'm so chuffed, it's great.

"Linda Niccol, the co-writer who took it over while I was in Australia, she's put in so much work, I can't say enough about the people on this film. That's not a big trumpet blowing exercise for me, everyone sees part of their family in this movie."

He said he had almost given up hope that it would ever be made.

"I went to the screen awards this year and there were no feature films category this year, because no one had made any this year, which I think is terrible, so having the Kapiti community get behind us this year is all the better. I'm so excited."