

Low-budget movie goes de luxe

THERE should be nothing too shabby about Wellington director Paul Murphy's first feature, *Second Hand Wedding*, thanks to a \$850,000 grant from the Film Commission.

Murphy — son of Kiwi film-maker Geoff Murphy, who made *Goodbye Pork Pie* — said the crew started shooting last August with “a lot of enthusiasm, determination and very little money”.

“Everyone liked the script and things fell quickly into place, allowing us to get the film in the can within four weeks.”

After seeing a rough cut of the film, the commission agreed to pay for top-notch post-production work at Peter Jackson's Park Road studios in Wellington suburb Miramar.

Nick Ward's screenplay — about

Cheryl Rose's efforts to hide her engagement from her bargain-hunting mother, Jill, for fear she will ruin her big day — is based on a true story. Commission chief executive Ruth Harley said she “laughed and cried in all the right places” when viewing the film. “We think this intrinsically Kiwi film about families and friends has terrific appeal and is the kind of movie that New Zealanders will enjoy seeing on the big screen.”

Post-production is under way and the film will be released in cinemas this year.

Park Road spokeswoman Vicki Jackways said though the studio dealt with many big international productions, it was “equally challenging and rewarding to work on New Zealand films, which are often a lot smaller”.



Paul Murphy:

‘Things fell quickly into place.’