

Film life lures Belgian to Kapiti

Shannon Gillies

Lights, cameras and location hunting on the Kapiti Coast have lured one of New Zealand film's newest imports.

Former television reporter Bruno du Bois travelled from Belgium to New Zealand to improve his English and to get involved in the high stakes industry of film.

"I had a few choices between London, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

"The UK is too close to Belgium and I wasn't really in to the American industry – then it was between Australia and New Zealand I talked to one of my friends who said New Zealand was a beautiful country so why not? Life is cheaper in New Zealand than Australia."

He arrived last year in January and had found New Zealand to be an "amazing place".

"Lots of people in New Zealand want to go over seas, they just don't realise how lucky they are to be in New Zealand.

"In Europe everyone is stressed and aggressive – they're really angry. New Zealand people are more relaxed and open minded."

He was the production assistant on the new film *Garage Sale* and said he was enjoying every



Film making is about working with different groups of people in sometimes extreme conditions, says Kapiti's newest film import, Bruno du Bois.

day of it.

"I enjoy it a lot. All the people on the project are really motivated – everyone's pushing really hard to get it going. There's a real positive energy about the project.

"In terms of the story it's one everyone can relate to, it's a story about characters like a normal life situation.

"In terms of the project it's really good to be in such a low budget production because we

have to learn to find a way to make the production work.

He got involved in the Kapiti-based film through contacts.

"I was at the film school in Wellington with Michael [the son of the producer] and we got along really well, then I met Kerry [the producer] and Kerry asked me to work with him."

Lots of people thought the film industry was about trips to

Cannes but it was completely different. It was holding a diffuser in the rain while people were working around you, he said. "It's like a big family."

Du Bois said he had had a strong interest in film and theatre since an early age. "Since I'm four, with the camera, with my mum and dad shooting stuff on holidays.

"I've always been on film – when I was a baby I was in advertisements

for nappies, that's when everything started."

Du Bois was unsure about what the future held for him, he could return to his job as a reporter in Belgium, but he had his hopes set on joining the film industry.

"Trying to succeed and find my place in the film industry."