

First of Garage Sale in can

Shannon Gillies

Casting for Kapiti film *Garage Sale* is complete and the first week of filming is over.

Film writer Linda Niccol said the first week's shoot had gone to time.

Cast coordinator Dra McKay said casting had gone well.

"We had a lovely time, we had just over 140 walk ups on Saturday, a mixture of children and parents and potential extras. We're just up to our knees in files now, working out which extras suit which scenes."

Wellington actress Geraldine Brophy [*In my Father's Den, Home Movie, Insiders Guide to Love*] was offered the part of Jill, the mother with a taste for bargain hunting.

"After you are 35 as an actress you're always someone's mother, unless you're Sharon Stone," she said. "My agent sent me the script, I read it loved it and auditioned. I loved the story very much indeed."

A lot of New Zealand film and television stories were dark or quirky



Geraldine Brophy, who plays the mother Jill in *Garage Sale*, sits in a yellow mini, a tribute to *Garage Sale* director Paul Murphy's father, Geoff Murphy, who directed *Goodbye Porkpie*.

but this film was happy, she said. "I don't think you could ask for more than a damn good story."

The film was being produced on a low budget, with the team having to seek funding through alternative avenues. "You can stand around and wait for the exact right budget, but you can wait for 10 years and not do anything."

The character was one she liked. "I love her, you have to love every character you play, even if they're a toad."

The film, by former

Kapiti resident and script writer Nick Ward, was based on his mother and sister.

His mother was an avid garage sale shopper and bargain hunter. With maps she would work out which garage sales they were going to and the best ways to beat the traders, Ward said. "I don't think we ever paid for anything full price."

Mrs Brophy had the opportunity to meet the woman she would play, Gill Ward. "Gill met me for a cup of coffee and

we chattered for a couple of hours."

Mrs Ward said it felt good to be part of a New Zealand film and she was glad she could help her son.

There were some things in the script she would not do however, she said.

"There are some things I feel that the people who know me will know I'm not like that."

Shooting was due to finish in September, with the film expected to be released in May next year.