

Shotgun start for fractured dream

By Alex Kirkham

RISING on a star that seems to be sprinkled with the magic of a Hollywood success story, a team of young filmmakers, including Footscray sound designer Brendan Searle, has secured the acting talents of Samuel Johnson, Steve Bisley, Rachel Ward and Simon Lyndon for their first feature film titled *Shotgun!*

The team has already made the first explosive 15 minutes of *Shotgun! An Opening Sequence* and is hoping the premiere screening at Camberwell's Rivoli Cinema on August 19 will ignite an interest from potential investors who can help it complete the project.

Most members of the Fractured Production team are under 25 and fresh out of film school. They include co-producers Alistair Marks, 22, and Liam McIntyre, 25.

Searle said the opening scenes had been compiled with a skeleton crew, which gave him the opportunity to take full responsibility for the sound production.

"Sound makes up at least 50 per cent of the film so having the freedom to be a one-man sound team... it's a lot of responsibility but extremely satisfying."

Searle studied film production at Footscray City College before completing a



Australian-made: Yarrville sound technician Brendan Searle has a promising future in film. **Picture: Matthew Fumeaux**

degree at Swinburne University of Technology.

He said Alistair Marks' powerful script had played a role in opening the right doors.

"It's almost a bit of a myth that you might one day be able to work with a group

like this. We've poured everything we have into this and we're not going to let it be hindered by imperfection."

The story tells of gang debts and a briefcase full of cash that falls into the wrong hands.

Marks wrote the script while studying at the Swinburne School of Film and Television under mentor Richard Franklin, who sadly died before he got to see what his protegee had achieved.

Franklin directed *Hotel Sorrento*, *Psycho II* and *Patrick* and worked with directors George Lucas and John Carpenter.

"Without him, I never would have had the guts to follow this through," Marks reflected.

"He was so encouraging and believed in us and the project."

And how did the team manage to draw such talent to its first film project?

"One casting agent liked the script," said Marks, "but didn't think we had the experience to make it happen. So we showed the script to another casting director, Sarah Hallam, who by pure luck is friends with Samuel Johnson.

"He looked at the script, loved it and wanted to play one of the roles."

While Australia's film industry is portrayed as one of the toughest, McIntyre said he had been overwhelmed by its generosity of spirit.

For information about the premiere or getting involved in the project, visit www.fracturedproduction.com