

Happy New Year

Written by Mark Shaffer

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Award-winning film seeks to shed light on post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans



Writer/Director K. Lorrel Manning's "Happy New Year" is a lock to raise eyebrows when it screens at this year's Beaufort International Film Festival. But according to the filmmaker that's the whole point of the film. Manning's first full length feature – adapted from his own play – is a frank and often disturbing examination of the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on American military personnel.

Manning, Lead Actor/Producer Michael Cuomo and the film's military advisor, Joseph Harrell, spent much of 2011 on the film festival circuit promoting the movie as a means for opening a dialogue on PTSD. They'll continue the trend in Beaufort with a highly anticipated panel discussion immediately following the film's South Carolina debut.

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