



Raphael Buechel, of Leahpar Productions. The company is filming "Roadkill: A Love Story" in Ortonville.

*Coming soon to Ortonville:*

# "Roadkill: A Love Story"

By Susan Bromley  
Staff Writer

Roadkill is a common sight around Brandon Township and Ortonville, with deer, squirrels, raccoons and opossums meeting unfortunate ends.

Soon, there will be roadkill here of a much different kind.

In August, Leahpar Productions, LLC, a film and video production company based in Clarkston, will shoot the movie "Roadkill: A Love Story," using locations around the township and village.

"We looked at some other smaller towns, but nothing worked as well as Ortonville and it's close to our office," said Raphael Buechel, co-owner of Leahpar Productions with wife, Kelly. "People have been really supportive. We have the support of the township board and village council and 90 percent of the movie will be filmed in Brandon and Ortonville."

The script for "Roadkill" was written by Brandon Culp and is a story about a mute car wash em-

ployee named Mitch who falls in love with a female serial killer named Taryn who drives a big white pickup truck and has had issues in the past with running over people.

The script was finished two summers ago, but sat on the shelf as Buechel tried to get financing. He finally decided that instead of waiting, he would film the movie himself. All cast and crew are working for free and the main costs to the movie will be gas, some miscellaneous materials and possibly equipment rental.

"It's low-budget, but it doesn't have to be low-quality," he said. "The focus is on the characters and their development. There is little action, so to speak. It's a psychological thriller and the love relationship doesn't

work out so well in the end, but the movie is open-ended and there is a possibility for a sequel or two."

Buechel is waiting for approval to film at Forster's Auto Wash on M-15, but already has consent to film at

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**Raphael Buechel, co-owner of Leahpar Productions**

## Spots available for movie extras

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another well-known township business directly across the street from the car wash— Frosty Boy.

Joanne King, co-owner of Frosty Boy with husband Dave, noted that Buechel wanted an ice cream store and it was right across from the car wash, where the male lead will be working. Two or three of the actresses in the movie will play employees, complete with Frosty Boy shirts, who are talking to each other about the boy across the street at the car wash.

"I really didn't want my shirts involved if there was any nudity or gore, and he said no, if there was any of that, the shirt wouldn't be involved," said King. "Our store will be open and some of our customers

could be extras. My employees think it's pretty cool. None of us believed it, we thought it was a joke... and then the producer called. It should be interesting."

Ortonville Village Manager Larry Brown said he and the council are excited to have a movie shot here.

"(Buechel) is going to bundle this with a couple other movies and show it in Europe," he said. "I'm not sure that anyone in the U.S. will see it, but it's interesting, a novelty."

Buechel still has spots available for movie extras. Anyone interested can send an e-mail to [info@leahparproductions.com](mailto:info@leahparproductions.com). The film will most likely be rated "R" for action, violence and language. He plans to take the movie to the Berlin Film Festival in March to market it for distribution.