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NORWOOD

Small town kid with big dreams

Rasmussen to shoot full-feature documentary this summer

By REGAN TUTTLE
Editor

Kyle Rasmussen said he thinks kids from small schools often fall into a belief that they are limited. But Rasmussen — founder and director of BlueShoe Media — is living proof that kids from small towns can and do achieve big dreams.

He graduated from Norwood High School in 2009. While there as a student, he interned with Pinhead Institute, a science-based learning program for San Miguel County youth, in the summers of 2006 and 2007. Working with Pinhead, Rasmussen said, helped him start on the path of his life's calling.

"It was the launch point for everything," he said. "It opened my eyes to the world and made

me realize that just because I was from Norwood High School, I could do things globally and have an impact."

Through Pinhead, Rasmussen traveled to Peru, conducting botanical research in the rainforests. The experience taught him something important about himself: He discovered he loved to travel.

Shortly after, through educational opportunities during Telluride Mountainfilm Festival, Rasmussen was exposed to videography and learned something else: making movies was his passion.

When he received an internship in Texas the following summer for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Rasmussen agreed to attend, but on his own terms. He wanted to go to Texas

to shoot a documentary on botanical research, rather than perform his own science-based studies. BRIT officials agreed, and Rasmussen's first independent film project began.

"I kind of knew a little about what I was doing," he said.

Rasmussen went on to earn a degree in journalism and technical communication from Colorado State University in 2013. He'd already worked on a National Geographic film and created two short-film documentaries of his own before graduating. "Awake," a film about the history and effects of caffeine, won first place at the Broadcast Education Association conference in Las Vegas.

In 2014 he founded his own company, BlueShoe Media.

"It's a documentary film pro-

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duction company based on empathy," he said. "How can film connect people cross-culturally? How can we relate to people though they are on opposite sides of world?"

Believing that positive change comes from feeling compassion, Rasmussen said he hopes to make films that help people see others as themselves.

Now working on a Master's degree in public communication and technology at CSU, Rasmussen will spend the summer in Asia working on his first full-length feature documentary. He can't say much about the work he'll be filming due to the culturally sensitive quality of it, but he will make an announcement this fall.



Kyle Rasmussen, 2009 Norwood High School graduate, is completing a Master's degree in public communication and technology at CSU and will travel to Asia this summer to film his first feature-length documentary with his company BlueShoe Media.

[Courtesy photo]

"Because of the nature of the story we are telling, we are being cautious about protecting it," he said.

Rasmussen said the film should be complete by January 2016 and will be available on Netflix.

He is thankful for all of his support at home in Norwood. Since Feb. 5, BlueShoe Media had raised \$20,000 in funding for the upcoming film.

"I think about that a lot," Rasmussen said. "The community has always supported me and believed in what I was doing. I'm thankful for that."

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