

JEFFERSON COUNTY this week

B
SECTION
Wednesday
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Filmmakers find a favorite and familiar haunting ground

ALLI PATTON
APATTON@PTLEADER.COM

You may have seen lights, cameras, and a lot of action around Port Townsend last week.

The horror short film, “Lifeless,” was shot in various locations around town, showcasing Port Townsend as a timeless global village with scenes in Fort Worden, the Wheeler Theater, the Port Townsend Antique Mall, Undertown, and the downtown area.

“I thought that Port Townsend was a great place to tell that story,” said the film’s writer, director, and producer, Maria Collette Sundeen.

“I wrote [Lifeless] visualizing locations that were in town so it was written framing Port Townsend as a character in the story,” she told The Leader.

“I specifically wrote the Undertown and the Antique Mall as big characters — and Fort Worden, of course — showing that timeless element.”

Conceived and written at the height of the pandemic, the film is an existential and psychological allegory told only through visuals, sound effects, narration and an original score.

The story depicts a woman desperate to connect, following her as she transitions from confusion to despair to anger, all the while deteriorating emotionally and physically.

The film is set for release later this year.



At top, lead actor, Eleanor Herriod O’Neill, on set for a scene run-through. Above, Maria Collette Sundeen directing a scene set in the Port Townsend Antique Mall. Below from left; a clapboard sets out the next scene; crew members test a camera prior to filming; the cameraman and an assistant talk with Sundeen while the crew gets ready for filming on Washington Street. Leader photos by Alli Patton



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