



SAM COME TRUE: Paul Lawrence of Coral Springs, an eight-in-one T-shirt, looks on as scenes filmed on the set of *Cruel World*. When he is not on a contact he said he felt "so blessed, I can't describe it," was writing "I Hate Country of Mine" Tina Turner

It's not such a cruel world after all

Coral Springs man's screenplay

By JIMMY LAMONARD
STAFF WRITER
A writer's dream is to be

When these days since the original screenplay he wrote called *Cruel World* was so close

A graduate with no credits or education in film, Lawrence said. He got a phone call from the studio people saying they were interested, but experience taught him not to be optimistic. Then he was offered a contract in November 2003. "I'm a blessed 40-year-old writer," said Lawrence. "I'm a writer."

Lawrence, who calls himself a mostly self-taught, worked for a job in the movie. They gave him three days. The film was shot last summer in New Mexico and Lawrence was on the set. "It was a surreal

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MOVIE

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Lawrence describes filmmaking as a huge and cumbersome ordeal. "The scene I was in with my three lines took hours to prepare. I was a witness that found a dead body. They had some kind of truck that dug a giant hole and an actress, who was the dead body, and they buried her up to her arm and a little bit of her face was sticking out of the sand," Lawrence said.

Because Lawrence is a performer, he was used to being in front of an audience. But he says that with so many people watching, "There's a lot of pressure for you not to butcher the lines."

Cruel World, due to be released this year, is about a scorned reality TV show loser who lures nine college students to a secluded residence for his own fictional show where getting voted off means being murdered.

"It's kind of dark but that's where the market is," Lawrence said. "A lot of people don't write to the market; they write what

they feel. Sexy, suspenseful, violent, low-budget films have a big market."

The movie stars Ed Furlong, who in 1991's *Terminator 2* played the young John Connor pursued by a cyborg from the future and protected by another cyborg, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Lawrence has earned his living as a freelance ballroom dance instructor for the last 12 years at several South Florida studios, including Sundance Arts in Fort Lauderdale and Wind Dancers in Coral Springs.

Loiraine Aubin-Pennell of Sunrise is the owner of Encore Dance Studios in the same city. She has known Lawrence for more than 10 years. "He had a dance show *World of Ballroom Dance on Continental Canal* and he gave some of my kids an opportunity to go on TV," she said.

Over the years, Aubin-Pennell had the opportunity to see the dancer expand his

interests. "He's tried any and everything," she said. "He told everybody he was writing a movie script."

"Knowing Paul and seeing the different things he was

doing, he was determined and if he wanted it bad enough, it was going to happen."

Lawrence, a transplant from New York, lives with his wife of three years, Bianca, a transplant from Peru. "I'm really lucky to have a wife that is supportive of me," he said.

Lawrence is in the process of adopting his wife's 8-year-old son, Jose, who calls him papa but still lives in Peru. Life has not been a steady stream of dancing, writing successes and falling in love. In 1994, Lawrence was diagnosed with a joint malady that made it difficult for him to walk for a time and in 1996 he endured surgery for a burst blood vessel in his head following an amateur boxing match.

"He'd gotten hurt pretty bad but he did overcome that," Aubin-Pennell said. "It took a while and it's hard to believe he was able to get back on his two feet again."

But Lawrence's hopeful outlook helps him through the rough spots. "I believe everybody has good luck and bad luck," Lawrence said. "The trick is to minimize the bad and maximize the good."

INDIA

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other aspects of Indian culture, including henna painting, yoga demonstrations and an outdoor bazaar.

Subrahmanian, who lives in Coral Springs, said she hopes the festival will introduce non-Indian

residents to the country's culture, and encourage younger Indians to keep traditions alive.

"Many of us who were born in India grew up with all of this," she said. "But the younger ones only visit India and it's always rushed."

"We've created the whole ambiance of India so it's like you're there for a day."

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the auditorium, 1600 Coconut Creek Blvd. For more information, visit the organization's Web site, www.aialindia.org.

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PUNCH

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me your who, and I love it ur

kid that hit me." Gregory Aurlington said he was proud of her but cautioned her against putting herself at risk as she sometimes does to

Some fellow students called her action "cool," and it did not surprise her teachers. "It is not unusual for her to

