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### Dominatrix story on DVD

By Patrick Cronin pcronin@seacoastonline.com

HAMPTON - If following the real story of the Quincy, Mass., dominatrix accused of dismembering one of her clients isn't enough, people can get the DVD version.

"Cricket Snapper" is an independent film loosely based on the real life case of Barbara McLaughlin-Asher, known to her clients as "Mistress Lauren."

Asher is on trial on charges of manslaughter and unlawful disposal of a body in connection with the death of North Hampton resident Michael Lord. Scott Stets' film, produced in 2004, is available online for \$13.99 or by visiting cricketsnapper.com.

First-time filmmaker Stets, who resides in Fall River, Mass., said the movie differs from the real-life case because events in his version unfold in the fictional town of River Falls instead of Quincy, Mass.

Instead of a New Hampshire man, a town selectman visits the dominatrix and dies of a drug-induced heart attack in her dungeon. The big twist is that the dominatrix and her boyfriend are killed trying to hide the body.

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"Think Dragnet and Law and Order, but with a twist of Orson Welles-style movie making thrown in for good measure," Stets said.

In real life, police said Asher admitted in 2000 that she and her boyfriend cut up Lord's body, packed it in garbage bags and disposed of it in a Dumpster of a Chinese food restaurant in Maine. The body has not been found and Asher now claims it never happened.

Stets wrote, directed and acts in the film. He plays Alan McDermott of the River Falls Police Department, who is trying to solve the case.

The film's name is derived from a tiny clicking device used by paratroopers during World War II. Stets wouldn't say how the device fits into the film.

"I can't give it away," he said. "All I can say is that a cricket snapper is a key piece of evidence found at the crime scene."

Stets said he got the idea for the movie after reading about the real-life dominatrix case in the newspaper. He was living in Quincy at the time.

"I thought to myself this has got to be a movie," Stets said. "What intrigued me the most, is that it's so taboo."

Stets teamed with Jerry Bagdasarian, a World War II veteran who worked in television and movies including "The Twilight Zone" television show. Bagdasarian was the film's director of photography.

Stets made a second version of "Cricket Snapper" he hopes will be shown in festivals. He said he also wants to make a documentary about the real-life case.

"I think she did it," Stets said. "I don't know if she did it the way prosecutors said she did it. Hopefully in the documentary I will be able to play the role of investigative reporter."

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