



HERALD PHOTO BY KEVIN WISNIEWSKI

HITMEN: Bob Wahlberg, center, hangs out with 'Orphan' screenwriter Tom Murtagh and director Richard Moos.

Island paradise for film fans



By GAYLE FEE and LAURA RAPOSA

NANTUCKET - Much like the leading lady in their indie flick, "Orphan," filmmakers Tom Murtagh and Rich Moos had a guardian angel.

"There was a lot of serendipity," said Murtagh, the screenwriter who was challenged by a friend in Boston five years ago to write a script and get it in the can for \$30,000.

We are talking miracle here. Because they did it for \$25,000! "Orphan," a flick about a Mob hit man who

watches over his victim's daughter, had its East Coast premiere at the Gaslight Theatre the other night here at the Nantucket Film Festival.

Sadly, the screening competed with a Marisa Tomei stage reading and the much-ballyhooed showing of "The Gentleman From Boston" at another theater.

And then there was Showtime's annual sand and suds soiree at Jetties Beach (where, by the way, we spotted the screenwriter). But word must have spread because the second screening of the mobbed-up thriller was mobbed. Even Bob Wahlberg, who stars with Marty Maguire and Charis Michaelson in the Boston-made movie, couldn't score a seat!

"I think a lot of people saw the stage

reading of the script at last year's festival and wanted to see the finished product," said Moos, who directed and co-produced the flick. "Now if only we could get a distributor to see it."

Well, there is that serendipity thing you've got going for you, Rich! Both Murtagh and Moos credit their film's good fortune to Boston's film community. "This film couldn't have been made anywhere else," said Moos. "The community rallied around us. Everyone did everything they could," which may explain that the "thank yous" in the credits are almost as long as the movie itself!

"We would ask for 10 people and get 30," said Murtagh, a New Jersey native who admits he was dubious about Moos' resolve to shoot in Boston. "That's what made it happen."

And many people, including the stars, took no money up front with Maguire being the exception. The Irish-born bartender out in La-La had to cover his family's expenses while in Boston shooting for a week.

"We had known of Marty through a friend of Tom's and he just slipped into our casting session out in L.A.," said Moos. "I'm surprised we got him.

"The casting director pissed him off by

ignoring him. She was fawning over some soap stud who could NOT have been more wrong for the role," he said. "Marty said he had to read fast because he had to get to work, but we knew the minute he walked in he was the guy."

As for Wahlberg, whose brothers are actors Mark and Donnie, he's still the New Kid on the Block trying to break into the movie biz with small movie roles. Soon he'll appear with Cambridge homeboy Lenny Clarke in a barroom scene in the upcoming Susan Sarandon-Dustin Hoffman flick "Baby's in Black."

"Wouldn't you know that as soon as the movies leaves Massachusetts, I'm called out to L.A. to do the scene with Lenny," said the one known as Bobbo. "We play a couple of Norm and Cliff-like characters."

And if you're wondering if Bobbo has truly gone Hollywood, he asked a festival volunteer collecting the audience response ballots after the screening if he could vote twice!

"Aw, come on, it's the Dachehstah," he pleaded.

She miraculously didn't buy it.