

DreamMaker Productions begins work on reality television series

Four people selected to appear in series

By Jim Kanak
Staff Writer

KENNEBUNKPORT—An interesting thing happened to Norene Freeman of DreamMaker Productions of Kennebunkport as she attempted to put her reality-based television program together. While she was assembling the four people that she would work with and film as they sought to realize their own particular life dream, she learned that her dream – producing this program – had encountered a problem of its own. She learned that Boston's Pax television channel, where she planned to air the six-episode series, would no longer be able to host it.

"It's open ended where we'll broadcast the show," Freeman said. "I'll explore possibilities in Portland and Boston. I'm looking for underwriters, since it appears that it will be paid programming. I'm practicing my own dream-making skills as I go along. As long as I take one step after another, this will become reality."

Freeman and her crew of volunteers have just finished selecting four candi-

dates out of the 40 who auditioned to be part of the series. Each of the four has a particular dream that they will pursue over a 12-week period, during which time they will receive individual and group coaching from Freeman, and be filmed on a set and on location.

"We held auditions in March," Freeman said. "People had heard about the project and sent in letters and emails. Finally, I had enough of a crew to hold auditions. The youngest was a 14-year-old girl and the oldest was an 80-year-old woman."

Freeman was part of a three-person team that handled the auditions. The others were April Lecours, who will direct the production, and Paul Tessier, who'll handle the lighting. Freeman said that the group considered a list of qualities that they looked for in the candidates.

"We looked at things like, do they have an outgoing personality?" Freeman said. "Are they articulate? Committed? Do they have an inspiring and doable dream? Would their dream be a good visual story? Are they coachable?"

The process yielded four varied dream seekers: Scott Charlton of Kennebunk, who wants to catch a 40-inch striper; Wendy Walter of



Portsmouth, who wants to create a haven for people to relax and heal with clay; Becky Sayward of Wells, who wants to buy a local motel and turn it into a warm, welcoming place for travelers; and Mike Harris of Old Orchard Beach, who wants to become a professional storyteller.

Freeman will coach each of the four

on a weekly basis for 12 weeks. "I'll try to teach them to unleash the power within them to make it happen," she said.

Each of the four will offer a different challenge. "For Scott, I'll have him visualize achieving his dream," Freeman said. "Due to a heart operation and unusual complications, he has no short term memory, which gets him frustrated. So, I'll work with him on dealing with the frustrations. He's going to grow from this experience and people watching him who have disabilities will grow also."

Freeman said that she would use the same process with all four people, but that each would involve a different set of steps, depending on their aspiration. "Wendy throws clay and teaches classes," she said. "Her studio is a garage. She would like to move her studio into a clay structure modeled on one in Massachusetts. So, we may need to do a road trip there. Becky loves the idea of creating a place for people to come and feel comfortable. But she wants to do it all at once. I need to help her focus on doable goals over the next three months. And Mike is funny, but has a shyness that really shows up in one-on-one contact. It's tough for him to promote himself because of shyness."

Freeman has assembled an all-volunteer crew to put everything together. Walter Griffin of Wells, Danie Connolly of Kennebunk, and Jim Keithley of Portland all helped with the auditions. Susan and Steve Bradford of Portland are serving as production assistant and audio technician, respectively. Dan Hannigan of Cod Rock Media Productions of Kittery will operate the camera.

Freeman said that the filming would continue until the end of August, when work for her actually will pick up. "We go into post production," she said. "Dan Freund and I will edit everything, the tapes of coaching, of location work, of the group set. We'll create six 30-minute shows that trace things from beginning to end."

Then, the shows will be ready to air. The question, and challenge, for Freeman, is where that will happen.

"It took me a while to get over the feelings of 'what's next?' and open up to 'what do I want?' and 'what are the possibilities?'" she said. "I feel that God is my partner in this, and with a partner like that, how can I fail? This is a dream I've been bringing to fruition, and it's coming together one step at a time."

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