

A renamed 'Like Moles, Like Rats' available Tuesday in local stores

By **JON BUSDEKER**

Times Arts Writer
jon.busdeker@htimes.com

Four years ago, director Jim Torres and executive producer Derrick Thornton set out to make a sci-fi flick.

It was called "Like Moles, Like Rats."

After a few setbacks and lots of learning experiences, the film, now called "20 Years After," is set for release on DVD on Tuesday.

The film, shot for less than \$1 million in Huntsville in 2006, will be available at local retailers like Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Blockbuster and online at Amazon.com and Netflix.com.

A big screen premiere of "20 Years After" in Huntsville is still in the works, according to Torres and Thornton.

Set in a time when war, famine and disease have ruined the world, "20 Years After" is the story of a pregnant woman (played by actress Azura Skye who starred in "28 Days" and "One Missed Call") trying to have the first baby in 15 years. It's based on a story by local playwright Ron Harris.

The film, called a "post-apocalyptic art film" features more than 55 visual effects and a custom score.

"20 Years After" is rated R.

Later this year, the film will also be distributed in more than 60 countries.

The film was renamed "20 Years After" because, "Blockbuster liked it," Torres said. Also, "Like Moles, Like Rats," was difficult to translate into foreign languages without losing the metaphor.

Working tirelessly since 2004 on everything from production to distribution, Torres and Thornton have a plan for Tuesday's DVD release.

"I think we have a bottle of Dom Pérignon we're going to drink," Torres said.

Following the celebration, in order to recuperate from the last four years, Thornton said he's plans to go home and "sit on the couch for about a week and stare at the wall."

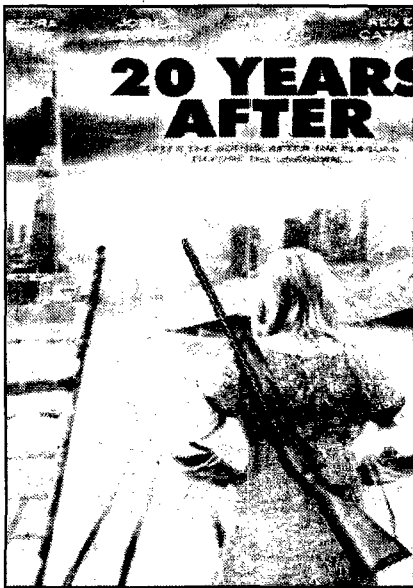
Thornton, who called the film-making process "a learning experience," said he's "proud" of the "20 Years After" and is ready to make another movie.

"We've got our toe in the door in Hollywood," Thornton said.

Looking back on the production, Torres admitted completing "20 Years After" was "a lot harder than we thought it was going to be."

"We hope it won't take four years to get the next one out the door," Torres said.

And Torres had a request for Netflix subscribers: "Even if you don't want to watch it, put it in your queue."



A poster displays the newly named "20 Years After."

