

# Slasher movie hits home

## *Financed by North Fork investors, filmed on the East End*

By **Brian Harmon**

Frank Zagarino used the North Fork as his palette in filming the movie "Spiker," a horror flick in which the killer ruthlessly slashes his victims with railroad spikes and buries them by the tracks.

So what will the independent filmmaker from Laurel do for an encore?

"I'm working on a family movie, 'Satellite Summers,'" deadpanned Mr. Zagarino, 49, whose gore-fest, "Spiker," landed on video store shelves Dec. 16.

"It's a coming-of-age movie about three 11-year-old boys spending their summer on the North Fork," he said of "Satellite Summers."

Judging from the blood-soaked images featured on the movie trailer for "Spiker" and the menacing look of the film's villain, Adam Brandis,

as played by Mr. Zagarino, a family movie is an ambitious transition.

"I can absolutely make the switch," said Mr. Zagarino, who has two sons, Frankie, 15, and Tanner, 10. "Family movies are becoming an easier and easier sell."

Mr. Zagarino, a fitness trainer at Ultimate Fitness in Riverhead, wrote the script for "Spiker," raised money for the production, and directed and produced the movie. "Spiker" was filmed entirely on the East End, with scenes at Lick-Itty Spltz ice cream parlor in Mattituck, on the Shelter Island Ferry to Sag Harbor and at various locations in Riverhead.

"My goal is to make a small little film community out here. There's no place prettier than the North Fork," said Mr. Zagarino, who spent 20 years starring in and filming low-budget movies in Los Angeles. Mr. Zagarino grew up in Miami, but he spent many of his summers at his family's second home in Laurel.

The film's entire budget, which Mr. Zagarino would only cite as "less than a half-million," was funded by 20 investors on the North Fork, said Mr. Zagarino, who bleached his hair white and wore pink contacts to play the killer Brandis, a

hulking albino who escapes from an asylum to wreak havoc on a group of teens in his hometown.

Production of the movie was finished in April 2007. The delay in the release of "Spiker" was due to Mr. Zagarino's efforts to find a distributor for the movie.

"I was holding out for an outright sale of the movie," he said. "When that didn't happen, I decided to go with straight distribution and split the revenue."

Most of the cast members of "Spiker" are from New York City, with the exception of New Suffolk's Michael Fedele, who plays Deputy McLean.

The violence and sexuality of "Spiker" earned it an R rating.

"I won't let my 10-year-old watch it. It's not for young kids," Mr. Zagarino said. "But my 15-year-old can watch it (because) I know which parts to fast-forward."

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Suffolk Times photo courtesy of Frank Zagarino

**Frank Zagarino plays the villain in his upcoming film, 'Spiker,' much of which was filmed on the North Fork.**