

## **Flying Pumpkins**

### **Production Notes**

In order to maintain mobility and the least intrusive profile, I decided to go with the Canon XH-A1. We shot in high-definition, 1080i, 24F to give us a film look and optimal image quality that would be broadcast ready upon completion. We shot over 140 hours of tape, most of it one camera. For the 3-day-long final competition in November, we shot with five cameras: 3 Canon's; one time-lapse camera (a small Canon still camera with a built-in intervalometer); and the Phantom HD which allowed us to shoot up to 1,000 fps to capture some breathless slow-motion footage. The production from conception to first DVD release took over 18 months - 4 months in pre-production and research; 9 months of principal photography; and 5 months of editing and sound. We have only one stock sound effect in the whole movie - an ambulance siren - and no special effects outside shooting 1,000 fps. We have a unique original score plus three original singles about "punkin chunkin." We did our audio post at Allied Post Audio. Timecode Multimedia did our color correction and master outputs.

On a Sunday morning in early November 2006, I called my dear friend, Bobbi Elliott, just to say hello and see how she was. Well, she was jacked! She had just been to the World Championship of Punkin Chunkin in Delaware the day before and she had so much fun she was just giddy with stories. As I listened, I could see these giant catapults and trebuchets and air cannons hurling pumpkins into the fall sky in my mind's eye and said, "We should do a movie." And Bobbi said, "Well if you do, I'm in." That's music to the ears of any independent filmmaker. I got right to work that day, researching the "punkin chunkin" phenomenon and the history and origin of it all. I was amazed to find that over 50,000 people come each year and that it is the 2nd largest event in the whole state of Delaware, after the NASCAR race at Dover Downs. I researched formats, cameras, rentals, purchase, etc. and 30 days later had a plan, a one sheet project outline, a one sheet budget and showed up at Bobbi's - I'm in CA and she's in VA - and said, "Here's the movie idea and budget. You said if I made a movie you were in. How much are you in for?" She's a woman of her word and here's our movie.