

Locally filmed 'Beacon Point' playing at Blairsville Cinema

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For those who love a good scare, locally filmed "Beacon Point" will be playing at the Blairsville Cinema through Thursday, Sept. 8.

The movie is about a group of hikers who get lost soon after starting out on the Appalachian Trail, and in doing so, come face to face with the darker side of Cherokee legend.

Many will recognize landmarks specific to Union County in the film, including the Walasi-Yi Interpretive Center and Neels Gap. The cast and crew of the movie stayed in Blairsville for nearly three weeks during preparation and filming in 2013.

"Beacon Point" also features scenes shot on Blood Mountain, in Dahlonega's Consolidated Gold Mine, Conyers, and on into the Great Smoky Mountains and Clingmans Dome.

The movie celebrated its world premiere at the famous Chinese Theatre in Hollywood back in June, and held its Georgia premiere last week at the Blairsville Cinema.

Dozens of area residents

attended a special screening of the film on Saturday, Sept. 3, which featured a post-movie Q&A session with cast and crew, plus a chance to get autographs and purchase "Beacon Point" T-shirts in the Blairsville Cinema lobby.

"It's been really neat to be able to share 'Beacon Point' with the areas where we shot it," said Eric Blue, who directed and co-wrote the movie. "We've already screened it up in Cherokee, where we shot it up there, and now we're doing Blairsville. It's great to get the hometown fans' reactions, so to speak, so that's been really exciting."

Concerning the treatment of Cherokee legend in the movie, such as that of the Nunehi, Blue said he met with and received compliments on the film from Vice Chief Richard Sneed of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

And while Blue concedes that the movie won't be for everyone – it really is frightening at times, and contains several instances of strong language and a handful of gory scenes – he said he's proud of the film and the quality of the end product.

"It's such an emotional journey," said Blue. "You

pour your heart and soul into something, and then it's finished, you release it, and you've got your finished movie. Some people are going to love it, some people aren't going to love it, but it is what it is, and I'm very proud of it. It's exciting for me to share it with the world, and it's a big deal as an artist.

"We did a lot with a little, because we're independent filmmakers, we're not big Hollywood studio guys. We're struggling just like everyone else to make a name for ourselves, and I'm really proud of what we have. I think our movie stands up against any movie."

Applause erupted as the credits began to roll during the Sept. 3 special screening, and on hand for the Q&A following the film were Blue, his wife and film production designer Karen Teske Blue, cast member RJ Shearer and special effects/makeup artist Tar'Ra Troutman.

Dylan Harris, a young employee of the theater, said he thought the movie was outstanding, and Stephen Thompson, who attended the special screening with his family, agreed with Mr. Harris' assessment.

"I'm a sci-fi fan first and foremost, but it's also fun to see a movie that was made in our hometown, and something that's a product of Georgia," said Thompson. "Hollywood is moving to this state, so it's fun to see the products of that. I thought this was a fun movie – it was kind of like watching a two-hours long 'X-Files' episode."

As for Blairsville Cinema owners Donald and Linda Lingerfelt, they said they enjoyed hosting events like the "Beacon Point" premiere because it was just one more thing they could offer to the



Here are some of the cast and crew of "Beacon Point," a locally filmed sci-fi thriller that had its Georgia premiere at the Blairsville Cinema over the weekend

community.

The movie will continue at the Blairsville Cinema through Thursday, Sept. 8, with multiple viewings each

day. For show times, check out the cinema's website at www.blairsvillecinema.com.

For those who miss the movie during its limited

theatrical run, Blue said that "Beacon Point" will soon be available via iTunes, Amazon, Netflix, Walmart, Target and Redbox.

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in Union County for years, though he was hiding out at a relative's house in Clay County, NC, when he was taken into custody by UCSO Lt. Osborn, UCSO Detective Sgt. Tom Mangifesta and Clay County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Giles, according to Lt. Osborn.

Shook is being held in Clay County on \$50,000 secured bond until his extradition to Union County,

where further charges are pending, according to the sheriff's office.

Lt. Osborn and Detective Sgt. Tom Mangifesta would like to thank the following individuals: Lt. Mark Henderson, Cpl. Jeremy Parker and Deputy Johnny McCoy, all of the Towns County Sheriff's Office; and Clay County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Giles of North Carolina.



Fans line up after the movie to talk with and get autographs from some of the folks involved in the film, including the director, Eric Blue, and one of the actors of the film, RJ Shearer.