



# Unique Collaboration For Film In S.F.

Students Work With Pros

By Don Sanchez

**Feb. 6 - KGO** - There is another movie that is in production on the fabled streets of San Francisco. It's a production of a San Francisco school that wants to make films digitally.

"Around June" is about a girl who meets a penniless immigrant and finds love. The production has been shooting on Potrero Hill and in the Mission.

James Savoca, Director-Writer: "It really is cinematic. I mean, we're finding the real looking part of S.F., not the tourist parts."

He's an instructor at the San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking. It's a school that has feature film production as the curriculum.

Jeremiah Birnbaum, S.F. School of Digital Filmmaking: "They're students at the beginning, but by the end, they're actually professionals because they're working side by side with a team of pros."

The crew is split 50-50 between students and professionals. Birnbaum started the school two years ago because digital technology made it feasible. They're shooting in high definition.

Jeremiah Birnbaum: "San Francisco is a place that has always been finding a way to blend both art and technology."

It brought lead actor Oscar Guerreo here from Puerto Rico. It's his first English language film.

Oscar Guerrero, "Juan Diego": "I auditioned for this role on DVD, and then I uploaded online."

He'll be starring in a telenovela back home.

This is an independent film, which means limited budget, and an uncertain future. But it is an important credit for cast and crew.

Of course when the production is complete, the next step is distribution and they're hoping "Around June" will be coming to a film festival or theatre near you.

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