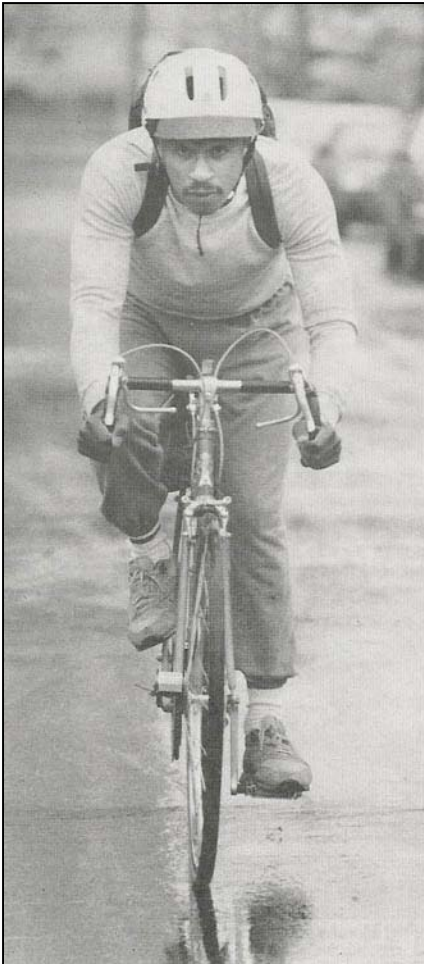


## PEDALING FOR MOVIES

### Local Man to Ride Bike from Syracuse to Canada for New Filmmaking Industry

(Press Release 7/10/05 Ascension 3 Studios)



Victor Linney in 1988 at age 27 en route to Canada from Syracuse.

Victor Linney was born and raised in Syracuse, New York. Like many of the citizens in the small Upstate New York city, he has investments there. He is a homeowner, an emergency dispatch operator for a local security company, and a parent of a student who attends one of the Syracuse city schools. This is why he will stop at nothing to see his city succeed in growing by bringing in new industries.

Back in the spring of 2004, Victor teamed up with local filmmaker Ryan Dacko in developing a feature film to be made in Syracuse, New York. Together they believe Syracuse is cinematic. With a multitude of locations—ranging from beaches, forests, country roads, city highways, vacant warehouses, and the classic architecture of its aged buildings—Syracuse has all the elements which are needed to shoot a successful movie on a small budget. Also, the area is full of talented actors, hailing from small theater and stage groups to local colleges. All the elements are here, except the filmmaking companies to capitalize on them. For years now, Syracuse's secret filmmaking environment has gone unheard—the buildings continue to age and the area's acting talent continues to move on to bigger cities offering more career avenues. Victor Linney is determined to change all of that.



Victor, now at age 44, training to reprise his trek—this time for an independent feature film.

For over one year, Victor has worked as a production manager for Ascension 3 Studios, a local filmmaking company started by director Dacko, to set the table for a feature film production based in the heart of the city. With the small success of the award winning independent film, "And I Lived", shot in Syracuse and Rochester back in 2002, Linney and Dacko showed that a feature film could be shot entirely in upstate New York without the need for Hollywood-sized budget. With the next film, titled "Dead Heaven," they aim to prove their point again, but this time on a global scale. With a series of small successes in the Syracuse filmmaking industry, the

secret will catch on with filmmakers who might be planning more expensive shoots in New York City or Toronto, Canada. The ultimate goal is to create the beginnings of a feature film industry based out of Syracuse, and to attract other film companies to bring their productions to the city. Using this vision, Linney and Dacko were able to secure locations, crewmembers, and even a local movie distributor—well on their way to rolling the cameras in the fall of 2005.

To gain awareness for this door to a whole new industry in Syracuse, as well as to enlist the help of local investors and citizens—on August 22, 2005, Victor Linney will be riding his bike from downtown Syracuse 106 miles North to Kingston, Ontario.

“We believe that this project is a worthy investment, not just for the city but for the independent film industry and local art community that is already here,” Linney says, “Riding my bike to Canada is a way to raise equity for the project and also get the community involved through the pledges. The result will be a feature film made in Syracuse and by Syracuse then premiering at the Eastwood Palace in the spring—ultimately paving the way for other productions to be brought to the city.”

This is not the first time he has taken to such a task in order to raise money. Back in 1988, Linney took his bicycle and trekked to Canada to raise money for the Rescue Mission and their help of the poor and homeless in Syracuse. 17 years later, Victor is finishing up small repairs on his bike and re-planning his route north, which will take him from the Axa Towers (formerly MONY Towers) on State Street through Pulaski, via Route 11. From there it is on to Cape Vincent and the Wolf Island Ferry, bike around Wolf Island to the Kingston Ferry, and finally coming to an end at the city hall in Kingston, Ontario. The total trip will be 106 miles long—but the benefits of Syracuse’s new movie industry will travel much further—years into the future.

Donations and pledges can be sent to:  
Ascension 3 Studios  
PO Box 815  
Syracuse, New York 13214

Or made directly on line at the  
Ascension 3 Studios website -  
[www.ascension3.com](http://www.ascension3.com).

