

## Hardy McNeece

It was obvious from an early age that Hardy McNeece was destined to be involved in film and music. Film and music opened doors to a world Hardy was previously unaware of. When asked about his acting and musical influences, Hardy recalls fond memories of watching Jerry Lewis films discovering Elvis and Johnny Cash. A stark contrast between the two, but the marrying of two different arts of influence with different genres within themselves that best define Hardy McNeece.

Though severely shy as a youth, Hardy participated in a number of plays in grade school, giving him a taste of what acting was like. Later in his late teens he played in several bands, Blind Man's Eden being the last to perform with. With this, he discovered his vocal expression by using music as an outlet for his creative angst. Hardy played among local indie rockers such as Josie Scott, the front man for Saliva. Hardy fell in love with performing for others. He discovered a side of himself he never knew existed, nor did anyone else. He found performing for a crowd exhilarating.

After a few years as front man for Blind Man's Eden, the band dissolved, and Hardy discovered an outlet for his need to act. He discovered Red West Actors and Others, acting classes located in Memphis taught by the famed Red West (*Roadhouse*, *Baa Baa Black Sheep*). During his two year attendance at Red West Actors and Others, Hardy participated in a number of indie and Hollywood films, most notably as an extra for *The People vs. Larry Flint* (Columbia Pictures Corporation).

After the Memphis indie film and music scene appeared to dissipate, Hardy took a hiatus to start a family. In 2005, after prompting from his close friend Arnold Edwards II, Hardy returned to the revitalized Memphis indie film scene to headline as one of the main driving forces of Cowboy Up Productions (CUP).

To date, Hardy has co-produced and starred in CUP's *Cherry Blossom*, assistant directed and starred in CUP's *Curbside Confessions*, as the memorable hitman named TinMan, a role Hardy wrote for the film. Hardy's role with CUP includes writing, acting, assistant directing, producing, music, location scouting, and various other roles. He is currently assisting with various projects listed in pre-production. As well as other roles, Hardy works on music for films produced by CUP, which put him back in touch with long time friend Bill Yates of Delta Death Cult. Hardy is currently writing a script entitled *A Fall from Grace*, a Cowboy Up Production slated to begin in late 2007/early 2008, and is the front man for the southern rock band Delta Death Cult.