

# THREE FOR THE SHOW

Filmmakers keep a Pontiac 'trilogy' in driveway

by Susan Brohman

**W**HEN DRIVING TO and from film and video shoots, Don and Christine Scioli have their pick of Pontiacs. The Novato, Calif., couple have three: a 2005 Sunfire, an '04 Vibe and '04 GTO.

The Sciolis' film and video work has entailed promoting everything from local nurseries to medical services to fashion and area politicians. They're also filmmakers who have written, produced and directed a feature-length thriller called *The Beckoning*.

"This was the first feature we made together," says Don Scioli, who was part of a team that won a Student Academy Award® for Best Short Film (*A Field of Honor*) while attending the University of Southern California film school.

But it was a commercial they shot for a Pontiac dealership in Marin and Sonoma counties that first beckoned them to Pontiac. "It didn't take us long to realize these Pontiac models were indeed great cars," Scioli says.

"We use the Sunfire and the Vibe to carry film and video equipment to all our shoots," he adds. "They're fuel efficient,\* drive very well on some of the twisting back roads around here and are easy to park in small places. With the Pontiacs we chose, we got some of the benefits of hybrids without the silly waiting lists and markups."

## ■ MOMENT OF ZAN

Don and Christine, who have been married for 26 years, first met at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia. They reconnected after Christine went to law school and Don attended USC. Zan Media is named after the first initials of their three children — Zack,



Photograph by Melissa Barnes

Alex and Niki.

"We started in 1980 doing documentary films and commercials, and then picked up a couple of big retail commercial accounts," Scioli says. "We were doing more than 200 high-end fashion commercials a year, Calvin Klein-type ads on 35mm film with big crews, doing both coasts, throughout the '80s."

They extended their talents recently when they produced *The Beckoning*, a suspense thriller about "an innocent college coed who goes on the misadventure of her life."

"It's a fun, scary roller coaster ride shot on location in the San Francisco Bay area with a historical undertone revolving around the world's greatest

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explorer, Sir Francis Drake, and his rogue privateers," Scioli says.

You can view the trailer and buy the DVD at [www.thebeckoning-movie.com](http://www.thebeckoning-movie.com). The Sciolis pledge that \$5 from each movie sold will benefit one of three charities: Meridian Health Foundation, Surgicorps

International, and Homeward Bound.

They're putting the finishing touches on their latest documentary, *Napa, Sonoma, A State of Vine*. "We live in the gateway to wine country, love wine and thought it might be a fun topic," Scioli says. ▽

\*EPA-estimated mpg: 26 city/36 hwy (Sunfire); 30 city/36 hwy (Vibe).