



## "HOLY WATER"

Matthew Dressel's character in "Holy Water" is the ultimate wing man.

When his best friend Kyle, played by Mike Harthen, finds himself in a compromising situation involving a unisex bathroom and a girl with dreadlocks at church, he calls in his friend Aaron for reinforcements.

Dressel, who wrote "Holy Water," said the story is based very loosely on true events.

"I usually try to (write) stories that people can relate to," he said. "I was at church one Sunday and I came up on a horrible mess in the bathroom."

The unfortunate find got him thinking how bad it would be if a hot girl was outside the bathroom and blamed it on him, thus "Holy Water" was born.

The story came to life when Dressel, 21, was paired with Harthen, 20, and Jil Szewski, 21 for a film class project at

Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., where the three are students.

Although the trio didn't know each other before they started on the project, they said it was a successful grouping. They worked from late



**MATTHEW DRESSEL, 21**



**MIKE HARTHEN, 20**



**JIL SZEWSKI, 21**

## D E T A I L S

### "Holy Water"

- 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26
- Part of the Lake Michigan Film Competition Student Short Program
- 8 minutes, not rated
- Theater D, Wells Hall

October to mid-December on the film and with a budget of a whopping \$25, "Holy Water" might be the cheapest film at the festival.

"I had to go to Meijer and buy some gloves and a plunger," Harthen said. The other expenses included what appears to be the biggest water bottle in history and a bathroom sign.

Because the film is set in a church, the group said many viewers have searched for a hidden, deeper meaning but the basic message is friendship. But the filmmakers say the church setting just seemed like the most awkward place for something like this to happen.

Possibly the funniest part of the movie is Aaron's cell phone blaring out AC/DC's "Highway to Hell," in the middle of the sermon. "I just thought, what would be the worst possible ring to (go) off in church," Dressel said.

The trio of filmmakers experienced some technical difficulties during shooting but said that is just part of the process. "You have to have a good attitude because it's a very stressful experience," said Harthen. "I don't know of any film or video when (things) went right all the time."

The three filmmakers continue to work on projects while their short makes the film festival circuit. "I'm very focused on filmmaking," said Szewski. "I just love to do it. I put everything I have into it."