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Coverage from the Toronto International Film Festival

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There are two types of directors in the world. Those who shoot spontaneously and those who plan out each and every shot right down to the smallest detail. Woody Allen just calls himself lazy.

"I am not a dedicated filmmaker. I am lazy," Allen told a press conference at the Toronto International Film Festival. "It is not the be all and end all of my life. I want to shoot, go home and get on with my life."

Supporting his latest effort and his third film set in London - 'Cassandra's Dream' - Allen was flanked by stars Ewan McGregor, Colin Farrell and Hayley Atwell.

Stars whom Allen seemingly had total confidence in as he filmed the story about two brothers who due to financial difficulties turn to crime to solve their problems and end up bitter enemies. As per his accessible style, Allen allowed the actors free reign to ad lib and put as much of themselves as they could into the characters.

Ewan McGrego and Colin Farrell in 'Cassandra's Dream'.

"It felt kinetic or organic in nature. We didn't rehearse very much. It didn't seem hurried," said Colin Farrell of working with Allen.

Farrell and McGregor have done their fair share of independent features and ginormous Hollywood blockbusters. They found the freedom Allen gave them on the set of 'Cassandra's Dream' to be invigorating. Labelling the atmosphere that surrounded some of the feature films he has made to be both "monstrous" and "impersonal", Farrell enjoyed the change of pace.

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"Chemistry is something that is there or not," said McGregor matter-of-factly.

Admitting that he has been spoiled as a filmmaker in the sense that he has never had to compromise himself or his artistic vision, Allen explained that he is happier with the creative latitude and independence he has in shooting and being financed in Europe rather than the United States.

"I always wanted to become a foreign filmmaker," Allen joked. "Artistically, it has been a great move for me."

Downplaying his own immeasurable contributions to the film industry and the influence he has had on his contemporaries, the 71-year-old Allen says his approach to filmmaking has always been a simple one.

"I try to make the best film that I can and hope people like them," he said.

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