FILM INLAND EMPIRE NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 1

An Inland Empire Film Commission Publication

January 2007

Lions, Tigers & Bears-Oh My!

Inland Empire is Home to Hollywood's Premier Exotic Animal Trainer

Dan Taylor

Inland Empire Film Commission

Tucked away in the San Bernardino Mountains near Big Bear is the animal compound of Randy Miller of Predators in Action. Randy is one of the largest owners and suppliers of the best trained working animals film filming.

Was you favorite actor in the movie GLADIATOR the tigers or the lions in the sequel to BORN FREE? Those big cats are from Predators In Action. Not only does Randy train and care for these beautiful animals, but he also specializes in stunts and staged attacks with them as well. For example, he has doubled for the entire Indianapolis Colts football team in GATORADE's Super Bowl TV commercial and for Russell Crow in GLADIATOR, which earned him the 2001 World Stunt Academy Award in the category of Best Work with an Animal.

Shirkon the Tiger (the star of GLADIATOR) was recently filmed against green screen at Randy's compound in the mountains for the feature film, "First Fear" that will be shot entirely in India (with the exception of this scene, of course). Apparently India does not allow the training of tigers in the country.

But Randy works with more than just exotic cats; he also trains three giant Kodiak Bears, who can be seen commercials

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BLM & Film Office Renew MOU

Agreement Ensures Smooth Film Production On Public Lands

Sheri Davis

Inland Empire Film Commission

What started as a simple request from former Field Manager Tim Read of the Bureau of Land Management Barstow Field Office (BLM) for assistance with processing film permits (some of his key staff was out on state training) turned into a successful proto-type for a Film Commission/BLM partnership.



L to R: Sheri Davis, Roxie Trost

The Inland Empire Film Commission's (IEFC) Director, Sheri Davis, and the BLM Field Manager, Roxie Trost, recently agreed to renew their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will extend their partnership through 2010.

One of the key elements of the MOU is an agreement that allows the IEFC to prepare and submit applications for minimal impact filming on specified BLM land in the Barstow BLM office jurisdiction. According to Sheri Davis, this procedure saves time for all parties involved; "The preparation of a film permit application can be a confusing process to the film industry, necessitating numerous 'question and revision' phone calls.

In record time the IEFC took a two-week plus procedure and shortened it to less than three days.

Once trained on BLM procedures, the IEFC has dedicated its time to completing this task quickly and efficiently. This allows the BLM staff to use their resources more productively. Everyone wins." In record time the IEFC took a two-week plus procedure and shortened it to less than three days.

Because this partnership has been so successful, it has been used as a template for other regional BLM offices and

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Randy Miller's "Shirkon" taking his mark for the camera

for AMERICAN EXPRESS and HONDA RIDGELINE.

In addition to the feature, National Geographic had to have some pick-up shots for "Planet Carnivore" which they had originally filmed in Alaska. Randy and his Kodiak bear were filmed at the Weesha Club, also located in the San Bernardino Mountains, to double for the Alaskan forest.

So, be careful the next time your are hiking in the San Bernardino Mountains, you just might stumble across a Lion, Tiger or Bear (oh my!) working on a film.

For more information on Randy Miller and Predators In Action, visit his website at www.predatorsinaction.com.



Randy Miller's "Dakota" smiling for the camera

IEFC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the IEFC is to serve as an internal location and support network for the attraction and facilitation of location production for film, video and still photography with the end result being better promotion of the region as an attractive place to film.

Pathways to Production

A program that offers youth an alternative within the multimedia community.

Sheri Davis

Inland Empire Film Commission

The IEFC is developing a program to reach out to Inland Empire students that teaches youth about the Entertainment Industry. This program, *Pathways to Production*, will provide an avenue for students to learn the necessary skills needed to work in the film industry. If they complete the program, the student will receive a certificate, which will qualify them for an Entertainment Industry internship. A total of ten one-day workshops will be offered within the Inland Empire. The IEFC hopes to augment their existing skills and to expose them to a different kind of academic environment, one which uses creativity merited by individuality within the multimedia community.

Youth are eligible to participate in the *Pathmay to Productions* program upon recommendation by a teacher or academic institution. Students with a desire to learn in a non-traditional atmosphere, from "real world" experience, are encouraged to apply for this program. *Pathmay to Productions* is open to all youth, those with satisfactory grades or those classified as "at risk." Often the "at risk" student is simply classified as such due to the lack of interest in the traditional academic curriculum. This alternative program may be able to motivate and encourage students with creativity in the arts and provide a way to channel that creativity.

If you're an academic institution and are interested in hosting this program, or if you are an Industry Professional willing to lend your expertise as a serving to your community, please contact Sheri Davis at sheridavis@filminlandempire.com or call 951-779-6700, ext. 231. ie

Film Festival Benefits IE Students

New Image Media Gives High Desert Students a Chance to Express Their Filmmaking Talents

Jake Borowski

New Image Media

Founded by Jerrold Ridenour of New Image Media in Hesperia, The High Desert Student Film Festival will experience its 7th year in existence starting in 2007. Spawned from the desire to give student filmmakers in the Inland Empire a venue within which they could show their films to family, friends and the local populace, the High Desert Student Film Festival has made those desires a reality. With partnerships between the Festival and The High Desert Center for the Arts as well as local schools and businesses, knowledge and resources are gathered and shared with participating students in order to facilitate their further understanding of the filmmaking process.

In the past six years the Festival has encouraged students,

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INLAND EMPIRE NORTH FILM ALLIANCE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2006

TIME: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

PLACE: JOHNNY REB'S SOUTHERN ROADHOUSE

15051 7th St., Victorville, CA

COST/RSVP: DINNER (OPTIONAL)/NO RSVP

Networking with the High Desert's resident film crew and

services

PALM SPRINGS FILM ALLIANCE MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006

TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

PLACE: PALM CANYON RESORT & SPA

2800 S. PALM CANYON DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS

COST/RSVP: NO COST/NO RSVP

Networking with Coachella Valley's resident film crew and services. (Note: The PSFA monthly meetings have moved from the first Monday to the third Wednesday of the month). Go to www.palmspringsfilm.com for more information.

ROB ERT KCKEE'S STORY SEMINAR

DATE: JANUARY 19 - 21, 2007 TIME: 9:00AM – 8:30PM

PLACE: UCR, PALM DESERT CAMPUS

75-080 Frank Sinatra Dr., Palm Desert

COST/RSVP: \$340 – 675/ RSVP ON LINE AT <u>www.pswift.org</u>

An Intense 3-day seminar on story & screenwriting.

CALIFORNIA FILM COMMISSION BOARD MEETING

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2006

TIME: 1:30PM - 3:30PM

PLACE: SCREEN ACTOR'S GUILD BLDG.

5757 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

COST/RSVP: NO COST/NO RSVP

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.FILM.CA.GOV.

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

DATE: JANUARY 04 - 15, 2006 PLACE: PALM SPRINGS, CA

COST/RSVP: \$25 AND UP/REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.PSFILMFEST.ORG OR CALL 800-898-7256

local film commissions to create their own MOU. Currently the IEFC is working on developing an MOU with the BLM's Palm Springs office and has been requested to do the same for the BLM's Needles office as well. ie



Local Company Working Hard To Bring In Filming

Spotlighting Colleen Showalter of Independent Cat Enterprises helps to get Palm Springs back on the film industry's map

Sheri Davis

Inland Empire Film Commission

The last few years have been very exciting for the entertainment and film industry in the Coachella Valley. A variety of productions has ignited a spark in Colleen Showalter of Independent Cat Enterprises to look at the plethora of fantastic opportunities and talent in the greater Palm Springs area.

Recently, Colleen developed projects that identify, incorporate and utilize the skills of those residing in the Coachella Valley. One of the first projects developed under her philosophy is a show called The Stand Up. Like many great ideas, this show developed from a casual conversation she had with Dennis Fowler, Co-owner of Dales Lost Highway and Colleen Showalter of Independent Cat Enterprises. In addition to being a restaurateur, Dennis is also a well known comedian;. He has appeared on Comedy Central, ABC World News, The Laugh Factory, Hollywood Improv, 20/20 among many others. They quickly realized that Palm Springs was experiencing a renaissance of entertainment and that the time was right to offer a comedy showcase. In July the buzz caught the attention of NBC, ShowTime and Sirius radio. It was then they knew they were not only planning an opening night, they also had to film a pilot episode of The Stand Up. Two shows were taped with the second show featuring a less censored version of the acts. The shoot was a success and now the pilot is being considered for a series.

Another partnership Colleen developed was with Darren Cole and Glen Eades to create ScreamZone Productions (out of Palm Springs, CA). Scream Zone Productions has a state of the art sound studio, High Definition Digital Cameras as well as a boutique video set designed to create an upscale, modern approach to interviews, music videos and infomercials.

They recently completed filming of an infomercial with a nationwide jewelry store chain and a music video which will be a full DVD featuring the talent showcasing her greatest hits. The latter of these was filmed at Palm Springs High School where they invited the students to attend and watch a <u>real</u> production

many of which are repeat participants, to further their exploration of the industry. This was accomplished by placing them on industry shows such as television's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition and the feature film Jarhead that come to the High Desert to shoot. Additionally, festival winners have had the opportunity to continue producing short films through partnerships with New Image Media, where resources including cameras, editing stations and other production gear are provided for the students to bring their productions to that next step.



Jerrold Ridenour working out the kinks on a film project

In 2006, the Festival was fortunate enough to receive a generous donation from the County of San Bernardino with the help of Sheri Davis, Director of the Inland Empire Film Commission. This enabled the Festival to incorporate and gain official non-profit status, which will enable further growth through grant writing and community sponsorship.

Additionally, continuing support from the Inland

Empire Film Commission, as well as Desert Community Bank, Mojave Copy and Printing, and the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce and numerous Inland Empire businesses have all helped the Festival grow. We have several major evolutions for the next Festival, which will run in May of 2007.



Jake Borowski of New Image Media taking a break from festival work

One such change is an attempt to show the Festival at Cinemark in Victorville for one or two nights. Cinemark hosted the festival for the first two years and we're hoping that we can bring it back this year, giving students the experience of having their projects shown in a real movie theatre setting.

Come join us in May as we celebrate and support fostering the next generation of student filmmakers throughout the Inland Empire.

For more information, visit www.hdstudentfilmfest.com.ie

IE Hits Record Numbers for Economic Impact from Filming!!

Since 1994 the Inland Empire Film Commission has tracked the economic impact of filming in the Inland Empire. In 2003, the Inland Empire broke the \$1 billion mark (yes, that's a 'B') for economic impact from filming.

CUMULATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM FILMING
1994 – 2005

\$1,228,977,456

take place. Colleen Darren and Glen believe strongly in their responsibility to include young people in their local projects. They believe that the Valley has a lot of untapped talent looking for an outlet to learn and practice their craft.

Currently, Colleen is working as the American Producer for a 30 minute episode of a United Kingdom Travel Channel series called *The Taste of California*. This particular segment of the show features the entire Coachella Valley. The show will be viewed by over 40 million viewers across Europe and will be carried by Borders Bookstores and other similar outlets here in the United States. "This has been an amazing experience" said Colleen. "and one that I look forward to repeating in the very near future."

All in all, Colleen believes that there is no end to the possibilities of working in this industry; "The sky is the limit and we have lots of blue sky in Palm Springs" stated Colleen. ie



The Inland Empire has had the honor to host a number of great movies in the past. Here are just a few.

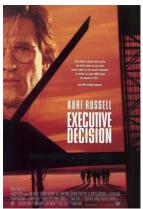
1995

CONGO – Paramount Pictures Starring Ernie Hudson, Tim Curry, Laura Linney and Dylan Walsh

Filmed in San Bernardino

1996

EXECUTIVE DECISION – Silver Pictures/Warner Home Video Starring Kurt Russell, Steven Seagal, Halle Berry, John Leguizamo, and Oliver Platt Filmed in Mojave Desert, San Bernardino and Chino



BROKEN ARROW – 20th Century Fox Starring John Travolta, Christian Slater, Samantha Mathis and Delroy Lindo Filmed in Barstow and Victorville

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The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Pacific Southwest Chapter (NATAS-PSW)

Join now and enjoy the benefits of membership until December 31, 2007

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences-Pacific Southwest Chapter (NATAS-PSW) is actively seeking new members. The initial membership fee is \$70 for your first year and \$55 for each subsequent year. Membership to NATAS-PSW Chapter covers the following DMAs and associated cities receiving television signals from the following areas: Bakersfield, Palm Springs and the Desert Cities, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Active Membership is a privilege extended to professionals actively engaged in television as an executive, producer, performer, announcer, newscaster, writer, craftsperson, cameraman/woman, director, artist, designer, photographer, editor, academics, entertainment attorney, PR and Publicity writer, Advertising Agency and others. You must have been involved in television for at least one year in order to be approved by the Membership Committee.

Membership benefits include:

- Significantly reduced price on entry fees for the annual Emmy Awards
- Access to the National Job Bank at www.emmyonline.org
- Free or reduced admission to all chapter events
- Regional newsletter "Emmy E-news" with information on chapter programs and events
- Eligibility for health insurance and long-term care through the National organization
- Access to the national John Cannon scholarship for children and/or grandchildren of Academy members
- Automatic membership in the National NATAS organization
- Discounts on Tweeter Home Electronics

The NATAS-PSW Chapter is a 501(c) 6 non-profit organization with a mission that is committed to education and improving the community as part of its larger mission of promoting excellence in media, including, but not limited to television and emerging technology. Through scholarships, grants and educational programs, the NATAS-PSW Chapter is inspiring the next generation of media professionals.

For more information go to www.nataspsw.com or contact: Terry Williams, Chapter Executive Director (619) 269-9803

Janet Newcomb, Membership Co-Chair (760) 200-8684

Robin Montgomery, Membership Co-Chair (760) 416-0165

Upcoming Releases

NEOWOLF - Small Potatoes Productions/Neopartners/ Intermedia Artists

Starring Veronica Cartwright, Agim Kaba, Michael Frascino and Heidi Johanningmeier

Filmed in Palm Springs, Yucaipa, Beaumont and Whitewater Releasing March 2007

DELTA FARCE – Lions Gate Films/Sleeping Marmots Production *Starring* Keith David, Bill Engvall, DJ Qualls, Larry "The Cable Guy" *and* Danny Trejo *Filmed in* Adelanto

Releasing May 2007

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ATWORLDS END—Buena Vista Pictures Starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Geoffrey Rush and Jonathan Pryce Filmed in Baker
Releasing May 2007

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER – 20th Century Fox/Fan Four Two Productions *Starring* Jessica Alba, Michael Chiklis, Chris Evans, Ioan Gruffudd, Andre Braugher, Julian McMahon *and* Beau

Filmed in Baker Releasing June 2007

Garrett

TRANSFORMERS (AKA PRIME DIRECTIVE) – DreamWorks *Starring* Josh Duhamel, Jon Voight, Anthony Anderson, John Turturro, Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox *and* Rachel Taylor *Filmed in* Adelanto and Rialto *Releasing* July 2007

BLIND AMBITION – IMW Productions/Subcontinent Films, LLC Starring Deep Katdare, Jaysha Patel, Christopher Atkins and Vanessa Angel Filmed in Adelanto Releasing 2007/8

COSMIC RADIO – Symbolic Entertainment/Cosmic Productions *Starring* Gil Birmingham, Seymour Cassel *and* Ricardo Chavira *Filmed in* Idyllwild *Releasing* 2007/8

SLIPSTREAM – Blue Sky Media Starring Anthony Hopkins, Michael Clarke Duncan, Lisa Pepper, Lana Antonova, S. Epatha Merkerson, Christian Slater, Jeffrey Tambor and John Turturro Filmed in Palm Desert and Yucca Valley Releasing 2007/8

News Tips Hotline

- Are you working on a project you want everyone to know about?
- Did you notice a film shoot in your neighborhood?
- Do you have a film related event coming up?

If you can say yes to any of the above, then send us the information for consideration.

Send your submittal to:

Film Inland Empire News c/o Inland Empire Film Commission 1201 Research Park Drive, Suite 100 Riverside, CA 92507

Or via email at: iefnews@filminlandempire.com

INDEPENDENCE DAY – 20th Century Fox Starring Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum, Mary McDonnell, Judd Hirsch, Robert Loggia, Randy Quaid, Vivica A. Fox, Adam Baldwin and Brent Spiner Filmed in Fontana

MULHOLLAND FALLS – MGM
Starring Nick Nolte, Melanie Griffith, Chris Penn, Treat
Williams, Jennifer Connelly, Daniel Baldwin, Andrew McCarthy
and John Malkovich



MY FELLOW AMERICANS – Warner Bros. Pictures Starring Jack Lemmon, James Garner, Dan Aykroyd, John Heard, Wilford Brimley, Lauren Bacall, Sela Ward and Bradley Whitford Filmed in Perris

1997

U TURN – Columbia TriStar Starring Sean Penn, Nick Nolte, Jennifer Lopez, Powers Boothe, Claire Danes, Joaquin Phoenix, Jon Voight and Billy Bob Thornton Filmed in the Coachella Valley

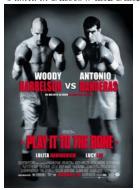
1998

THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK – United Artists/MGM Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jeremy Irons, Gérard Depardieu and Gabriel Byrne Filmed in Riverside



1999

ERIN BROCKOVICH – Jersey Films/Universal Pictures Starring Julia Roberts, Albert Finney, Aaron Eckhart, Marg Helgenberger, Scarlett Pomers and Tracey Walters Filmed in Barstow, Hinkley and Baker PLAY IT TO THE BONE – Touchstone/Walt Disney Pictures Starring Antonio Banderas, Woody Harrelson, Lolita Davidovich, Lucy Liu and Robert Wagner Filmed in Barstow and Baker



DINOSAUR – Walt Disney Productions Starring D. B. Sweeney, Alfre Woodard, Ossie Davis, Julianna Margulies and Della Reese Filmed in desert areas around Baker and the Trona Pinnacles

SPACE COWBOYS – Malpaso Productions/Warner Bros. Pictures *Starring* Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, Donald Sutherland, James Garner, James Cromwell, Marcia Gay Harden, William Devane, Loren Dean *and* Courtney B. Vance *Filmed in* Moreno Valley, Victorville and Adelanto



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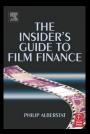


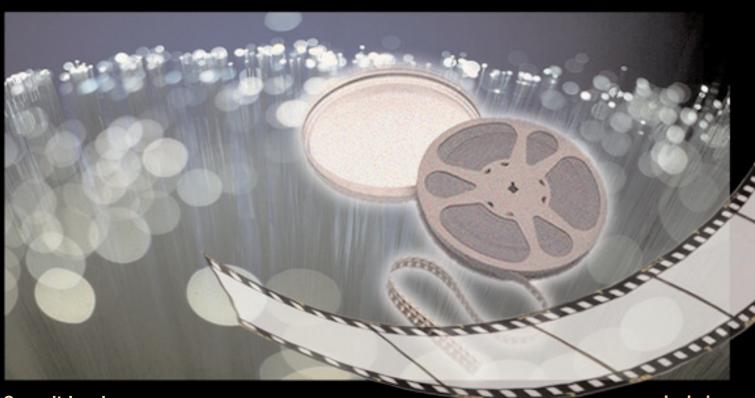
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Rates and availability of sleeping rooms cannot be guaranteed. Please mention that you are attending the ATLAS Film **Annual. Rooms are** on a space available basis and are released approximately one month prior to summit date.

2151 Avenue of the Stars Los Angeles, CA 90067 Tel: (310) 277-1234 Discounted room rate: \$250 single/double room per night

First 20 Summit **Registrants Receive:**

The Insider's Guide to Film Finance by Philip Alberstat

Financing an independent feature film production is a highly complex process. This book demystifies the legal and commercial implications of a film from start to finish. It provides a detailed survey of each of the processes and players involved, and analysis of the legal and commercial issues faced by all of the participants in a film financing transaction. Packed with legal advice and straight forward explanations this is an essential reference for filmmakers worldwide.

We are pleased to announce ATLAS Information Group's Seventh Annual International Film & TV Finance Summit. The entertainment industry is rapidly changing via the internet and portable handheld devices. Hedge funds and institutional investors are getting more involved in the financing. This long running event brings together a senior roster of film finance professionals, independent producers, studio executives and legal and tax advisors to share practical experience and technical knowledge on the complex issues involved in financing film & television productions.

Here's why you can't miss this Summit:

- Understanding the economic lifecycle of a motion picture
- The role of commercial banks in securing financing against future funding commitments
- The role of private capital markets and institutional investors in the motion picture industry
- Analyzing divestiture and other mega-trends
- The digital evolution in relation to distribution business, production, IP rights and privacy
- The emergence of brand integration, sponsorship and product placement as material financing elements
- The state of the future of the motion picture industry
- An overview of U.S. state, federal, and international tax incentives for film & TV production
- · Case study on utilizing multi-jurisdictional finance for an international co-production
- Significant networking opportunities and much more!

Who Should Attend:

- Accountants
- Bankers
- Branding Executives
- Digital Entertainment Executives
- Entertainment Lawvers
- Film Distributors
- Film Industry Executives
- Film & Television Producers
- Finance Lawyers
- Private Financiers
- Production & Post **Production Companies**
- Studio Executives
- Venture Capitalists Serving the Entertainment Industry

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Substitutions/Cancellations: If you need to cancel your registration, a colleague from your firm is welcome to attend in your place. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 5 business days prior to the seminar date and a full credit will be issued toward another ATLAS/SFI conference. If you must cancel within 5 business days, a \$150 administrative fee will be deducted from the credit voucher. No credit card or cash refunds will be granted. "Noshows" will be charged as attending. For more information regarding administrative policies such as complaint and refund, please contact our offices at 914-946-4010 or email info@atlas-sfi.com

Discounted Travel Arrangements:



American Airlines has offered a 5% off airline travel booked between

February 3rd - February 8th to all Los Angeles County Airports. Our Auth.

Code is A8727AN. Please book on-line at www.aa.com or call 1-800-433-1790 (a \$10 fee will apply via phone) ATLAS is working with Avis Rent-a-car and we'll provide information on our discount in the near future. Avis Car Rental Discounts Available Reference Number B136001.

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