

The Disappeared Media Coverage South Shore Now Behind Scenes

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*Behind-the-scenes look
at local movie shoot*

The Disappeared

Two awe-inspired fans, the world of television and motion pictures is primarily one of glamour, glitz and glitter.

What they don't often see, however, is the blood, sweat and tears that go on behind the scenes during the production process.

Last week a group of journalists were given the opportunity to take a first-hand look at those proceedings, thanks to the producers and crew of the movie "The Disappeared."

The film, which stars Billy Campbell, Shawn Doyle, Gary Levert, Neil Matheson, Ryan Doucette and Brian Downey, involves the story of six men who are lost at sea in the North Atlantic.

Local shooting took place over the course of about 15 days, with the majority of the filming set in two dories tied to a floating platform that was located a few hundred metres off Rose Head in Lunenburg Bay.

Along with the cast and crew, the shoot also involved a plethora of support crew, most of whom were gleaned from the local area.

"We've got two Cape Island boats, one is a support boat for the camera crew that holds all of the boxes, tons of boxes, at one point we counted up more than 50 boxes of stuff that's got to be put somewhere," explained co-producer Ralph Holt. "That's where they assemble, get themselves ready, that's their home base."

The second Cape Island boat, Islander VI, is commanded by Capt. Bill

Flower, who serves as marine co-ordinator for the shoot.

"It houses the cast and crew, the makeup, costume department and all those kind of supplies," he said. "Then we have the 16 x 24-foot platform, which is the base for the shooting. Then, we're supported by two smaller zodiacs, one of which provides complete safety. We have a diver on board always prepped to go and a coast guard-trained safety expert."

There is also a smaller, high-speed boat operated by local boat wrangler "Dory Mike" Gray, "who gets to whatever spot where something needs to be done, where we might need a boat moved or something picked up."

"Then we have the two prop boats, the dories, which are sort of the characters in the bit," he added.

For the day's shoot over a dozen film crew, including director Shandi Mitchell and first assistant director Bruce Zwicker, crammed the floating platform while five of the actors performed for the cameras from inside the dories.

"What we're addressing today as a scene is a point in time in the story where one of the crew has passed on and they're all dealing with it," Mr. Holt explained. "They're also trying to figure out how to get food to survive. It's a period of time, about the middle of the movie, where tensions are really starting to build."



Neil Matheson plays the role of Young Dickie, who is on his first fishing trip at sea.



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A familiar sight around Lunenburg thanks mainly to his affiliation with the barque Pictou Castle, veteran TV and movie actor Billy Campbell plays the role of Mannie.





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