

YOUR GUIDE TO FUN AND EXCITEMENT IN THE VERDE VALLEY, SEDONA, AND NORTHERN ARIZONA!

KUDOS

www.kudosaz.com

d Life

Postal Customer

February 23 -

March 1, 2011

Published by
Verde Valley Newspapers, Inc.

© Kudos, Verde Valley Newspapers, Inc. 2011

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEDONA, AZ
PERMIT NO. 54
CAR-RT-SORT



**SEDONA SHARES
SILVER SCREEN
WITH FRANCES
FISHER**

LARRY GREEN CHEVROLET... BIGGEST & BEST SELECTION!
www.larrygreenchevrolet.com

Local Color on the Silver Screen

Sedona, starring Frances Fisher, first film to explore area eccentricities

By STEVE AYERS
Kudos

Sedona has many things of interest to the outside observer, not the least of which are its spectacular scenery and its quirky charm.

But for years, moviemakers have focused on just one thing -- using the red rock spires as a backdrop, mostly with a swirling mass of cowboys and Indians circling about.

That, however, is all about to change, thanks to sophomore filmmaker and Sedona resident Tommy Stovall.

This week at the Sedona International Film Festival, Stovall is releasing *Sedona*, the first feature film featuring the eccentricities we as Verde Valley residents have come to expect from Sedona's locals, as well as its visitors.

It is a subject Stovall says he has pondered since he got rolling with his first movie *Hate Crime*, for which he won a Best Director award at the Breckenridge Festival of Film.

"I have always believed that Sedona, is rich with material. There have been tons of movies made here, but never a movie about here, when in fact there are so many wonderful characters to draw from. I think it is long overdue," he says.

Sedona, the movie, plays on the universal themes of fate and circumstance and centers on a 'fish out of water' visitor who would rather not be where she is.

"The short synopsis of the movie is that a woman gets stuck in Sedona and can't get out. Every time she tries to get out something comes up. And with each weird situation she meets these wonderful, wacky locals. The cast of characters eventually leads her to what I call a 'Sedona moment.'" Stovall says.

The movie starts when the woman, Tammy Johnson, is run off the road by a biplane. It only gets weirder, or should we say more Sedona-like, from there.

Tammy is played by the versatile and veteran stage and movie actress, Frances Fisher, perhaps best known for her role as Kate Winslet's mother in *Titanic* and as the prostitute Strawberry Alice in Clint Eastwood's *The Unforgiven*.



Versatile stage and screen actress Frances Fisher plays the role of Tammy Johnson, a driven career woman who goes through a life changing transformation after finding herself stuck in Sedona, in the movie *Sedona*.

If You Go ...

Sedona will be screened two more times this week. On Friday Feb. 25 it will play at the Sedona Performing Arts Center (tickets are available \$12 adults, \$9 Students and SIFF members) the 9:10 a.m. performance on Sunday Feb. 27 at Harkins Sedona is sold out.

"I think I was ready to play someone going through a transformation," says Fisher. "In this instance, I'd have to say it one of those roles that spoke to me."

Fisher describes her character as a driven career woman, who through a series of bizarre circumstances finds herself reconnected to a child she had long-ago given up for adoption.

"It's a slice of life story that says there are no accidents. All things are meant to happen for a reason," she says.

Like the movie theme itself, Stovall says once he committed himself to making the movie, all the elements fell in place.

"Finding a cast, getting financing and all that is tough, especially in these times. But sometimes you

just have to say, 'We are going to do it no matter what.' It seems that once we make that commitment, things began to come together and happened," says Stovall.

Stovall holds up the landing of Fisher as an example.

"One of the supporting characters is Deb Lovejoy, who is based on a friend of mine here in Sedona. I had thought of Beth Grant as the perfect actress to play the role. I found out she had Facebook page and that it was her personal page.

"I sent her a message. She responded. She liked the script. And when I told her I was looking for a lead actress, she told me she and Frances were working together on a project. It all worked out from there," says Stovall.

Stovall says the movie is essentially finished, but he may make some slight changes depending on what the locals have to say this week.

"Everyone in Sedona has a story," he says, "It is looked at by a lot of people as the kind of place where you can come to find what you are looking for -- finding answers or whatever.

"I just wanted to make a fun and

interesting movie that explored that notion, along with some interesting characters.

"And, obviously, I noticed the backdrop wasn't bad either."



Filmmaker and Sedona resident Tommy Stovall received acclaim for his film debut, *Hate Crime*, winning him a best director's award at the Breckenridge Festival of Film. *Sedona* is his second film and in addition to Frances Fisher, veteran Beth Grant, and Seth Peterson who starred in *Hate Crime*. Initial screenings at the Film Festival sold out quickly.

LIQUIDATION MOVING SALE

FLAG MAGIC KITE STORE
at the "Y" in Sedona

Big Discounts on Most Items
until March 15th!

15 & 20FT. FLAG POLES • FLAGS • KITES
MAGIC • TOYS • JOKES • AND MORE!

Relocating in Uptown at the Day In the West Bldg.
across from the Cowboy Club at Jordan Road

202 SR 179 • Sedona • Open Daily 11am - 4pm