



Camera crews begin filming 'Sedona: The Motion Picture'

By Lu Stitt

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Sedona once again will be the setting for a new movie, as it has been many times before. However, this movie is not only being filmed in Sedona, it is about Sedona.

Pasidg Productions is making "Sedona: The Motion Picture." Camera crews will be filming on the streets of Sedona for the next four weeks, according to writer, producer and director Tommy Stovall.

"It's not only a movie being made in Sedona, it's a movie named 'Sedona' and it's a movie with Sedona people in it," Stovall said. "We start filming Monday, July 12."

About half of the speaking parts in the film will be performed by Sedona residents, with the main actors coming from Los Angeles, Stovall said. Extras, production crew and peripheral services are all local.

"We've had such great support from local businesses and residents. People have given us breaks, let us use their locations and some have donated items because they all realize how great this is for the community. We all benefit," Stovall said.

Crews will be filming 12 hours a day all over Sedona including at the Brewer Road School — which now houses the Sedona-Oak Creek School District Office — before they take it down in August; at Big Park Community School in the Village of Oak Creek; and at various businesses and residential locations, producer and accountant Marc Sterling said.

"They're going to use our board room and turn it into a 1970s hospital. They'll have the district's name in the credits," SOCSO Superintendent Mike Aylstock said.

The big scene, the pinnacle of the shooting, according to Stovall, will be landing a biplane on the highway in the middle of town.

"We're working on the details so we don't interrupt traffic," Sterling said. "We're working really hard on doing everything the right way and putting out a film people will want to see and

will enjoy. We ask people to please be patient with us. We're going to be as [minimally] disruptive as possible."

The basic story line is about an entrepreneur, Tammy Johnson, who is traveling to Phoenix from Portland, Ore., on her 50th birthday, and makes a wrong turn. She ends up in Sedona and finds herself stuck in the city when a local tour plane runs her off the road during an emergency crash landing.

While in Sedona, she encounters an array of quirky locals and visitors who help her face her demons. In the meantime, Scott and Eddie are vacationing in Sedona with their 6- and 11-year-old sons for some quality family time. During a hike in the forest the 6-year-old becomes lost and a frantic search ensues.

The tagline for "Sedona: The Motion Picture" is "Everyone's looking for something," and Stovall said Sedona is a place people find what they're looking for.

"Sedona: The Motion Picture" is an up-close, personal adventure movie that features the

magical, mystical and magnificent character of Sedona.

"This is a hometown thing. It's a feel-good movie," Sterling said.

Stovall's first film "Hate Crime" was released in 2005 and won the Audience Choice award at the Sedona International Film Festival that year.

So far, five actors have committed to portray the main characters: Frances Fisher, who was in "Titanic" and "Unforgiven;" Christopher Atkins, who starred in "Blue Lagoon" and "Dallas;" Beth Grant, who had roles in "Speed" and "No Country for Old Men;" Lin Shaye, "There's Something About Mary" and "Kingpin;" and Ed Asner of "Up" and the television series, "Lou Grant."

"We have someone to portray 'The Waver.' I talked with [the original waver] and he wanted to do it, but he couldn't make it. We also have Robert Shields who is going to be in the movie, along with several other local actors," Stovall said. "Of course, many local residents will be in the film."

All of the filming, editing and production of "Sedona: The Motion Picture" will be done in Sedona. Stovall said filming will finish by Friday, Aug. 6, and he hopes to have the film done by the end of the year and ready for audiences by the beginning of 2011.

"We promised to bring the film industry to Sedona and this is the beginning. It's bringing money into the local economy already," Sterling said.

Stovall and Sterling have plans for the movie beyond the theaters. The hopes are it will turn into a television series similar to "Northern Exposure," which aired 110 episodes from 1990 to 1995 on CBS.

"All of Sedona is going to turn into our soundstage over the next month," Stovall said.

For more information, call 282-3684.

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"Sedona: The Motion
Picture" Writer, Producer,
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