

MISSOURI NEWS

Catching up: With movies shooting and premiering recently, the Update got lost in the shuffle. So we'll try to bring you quickly up to speed on recent happenings, such as:

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The **Missouri Film Tax Credit will be increased from \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million annually beginning Jan. 1, 2008.** The bill was passed in a special legislative session in late August and signed into law by Gov. Matt Blunt in early September. Other key elements of the bill include reducing the rate at which tax credits can be earned from 50 percent to 35 percent, eliminating a per-production cap and reducing the minimum amount of Missouri expenditures necessary to qualify for the tax credits from \$300,000 to \$100,000 for productions over 30 minutes and to \$50,000 for productions 30 minutes or under. A new application form reflecting the changes will be available online at www.mofilm.org in the very near future.

Production notes: The **Food Network** recently visited YJ's Restaurant just south of downtown Kansas City, Mo., for a segment to be broadcast in February ... Legendary commercial director **Joe Pytko** was in St. Louis earlier this month to direct a spot for Anheuser-Busch ... "**Saving Grace B. Jones**" completed five weeks of filming earlier this month in Boonville, Arrow Rock and St. Louis. Directed by Connie Stevens, the film starred Michael Biehn, Penelope Ann Miller and Tatum O'Neal. (Pictured, left to right- producer Ralph Singleton, line producer Brian Tanke and the Film Office's Jerry Jones in front of one of the Boonville locations used in the film, members of a Columbia church choir sing in the "rain" on location in Arrow Rock, director Connie Stevens directs in Arrow Rock and the director with her stars Tatum O'Neal and Rylee Fansler at the Saving Grace Wrap party in Boonville hosted by the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau and the city of Boonville.)



Do you have production news or photos from set to share? E-mail us at mofilm@missouri.edu

Screenings: "**Alice Upside Down**," (pictured top right) which filmed last fall in St. Louis, had a benefit premiere at the Tivoli Theatre in University City earlier this month. Stars Alyson Stoner, Lucas Grabeel, Bridgit Mendler and Ashley Drane were on hand for the event, along with director Sandy Tung. The premiere benefitted the Missouri Film Office and Cinema St. Louis. No word yet on distribution dates for "Alice." Across the state, "**Lenexa, 1 Mile**" (pictured bottom right) had a benefit premiere in Kansas City last week at the Screenland Theatre. Director Jason Wiles attended, along with stars Tim Hensel, Jason Ritter and Michael Rooker. The special screening benefitted the Kansas City Film Commission. Finally, "**Bill**," featuring Aaron Eckhart, Jessica Alba, Timothy Olyphant and Elizabeth Banks in a comedy about a guy fed up with his life, will make its St. Louis debut on Nov. 15 as part of the St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF). Shot on location in St. Louis in 2006, "Bill" premiered last month at the Toronto International Film Festival and was picked up for distribution by First Look Productions. All SLIFF tickets are on sale now at the Tivoli Theater box office. The Festival runs November 8-18th. For more info, go to www.cinemastlouis.org.



Last month, mayors and city officials from around the state experienced the glamour of show biz at the Missouri Municipal League Conference in Kansas City. Andrea Sporic of the Missouri Film Office (right), Mary Ann McCollum (left) of the University of Missouri and Gary Hansen (middle) with IATSE Local 493 teamed up to provide a Hollywood moment and souvenir photo to visitors at the Conference Trade Show. Bill Gilbert provided the filmmaking equipment. The show goes on as the group will also attend this month's Missouri Association of Counties trade show helping spread the word on film production as economic development for cities and counties in Missouri.

Feb. 1 2008 is the entry deadline for **Gimme Truth!**, a "documentary" film competition held in conjunction with the True/False Film Festival in Columbia in March. It will be up to the Gimme Truth! audience to decide whether Missouri filmmakers have created a profile of a Missourian that is 100 percent true or 100 percent false. Prizes will be awarded to the ten finalists. Additionally, the top three films will receive cash and in-kind prize packages, with no less than \$500 in combined cash and prizes for first prize. Entries must be 2 minutes or less in length and the director must be a Missourian. The entry fee is \$15. For more info, contact robin@truefalse.org or call (360) 584-4072.

In a sad note, the remains of Summer Shipp were found earlier this month in a Kansas City river. Summer, who had many friends in the industry, disappeared nearly three years ago while doing a marketing survey in Independence. A memorial service was held Oct. 27. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the CUE Center for Missing Persons or the National Center for Missing Adults. For more information, go to friendsofsummer.com.