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McDonough County: Lights, Camera, Action

Jillyn Shoemaker



Some film makers brought a little bit of Hollywood to our neck of the woods.

When moviegoers head to the theater next spring, they might recognize one windy back road.

That's because co-producers and Macomb natives Christopher Gentry and Frank Herbert decided to shoot a few scenes of their upcoming movie "Cast in Grey" just south of Macomb.

"On this road, there's no telephone poles, it's a beautiful road. We couldn't find that in Chicago," said Gentry.

"There's a level of excitement. People like to get involved. We needed a community that would help us. We needed a community that would understand when we block roads," said Herbert.

"I've driven all these roads in McDonough County. When I read the script, I knew those where the locations, I had them in my mind, specific locations," said Gentry.

And the beautiful locations aren't the only recognizable aspects of the film.

The producers cast local state police officers and firefighters in various scenes.

"They've treated us with open arms...from the mayor to the president of the University," said Gentry.

About 25 minutes of the movie will include scenes shot in McDonough County.

The rest is set in Chicago.

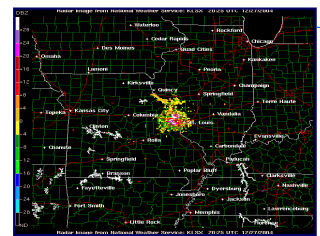
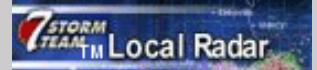
"Cast in Grey" should hit theatres in about a year.

Western Illinois University helped the crew of about 30 with lodging and meals.

In return, some students have spent the week on set, learning what filmmaking is like.



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