

Thursday, September 4, 2008

Film crews in town to shoot 'Edge of Darkness'

BY ROBIN G. COLES
For the Transcript

Guess who came to do a movie here in Winthrop last Friday, Labor Day Weekend? Mel Gibson showed, but Robert De Niro didn't. The film "Edge of Darkness" is an emotionally charged thriller set at the intersection of politics and big business. Thomas Craven (Mel Gibson) is a veteran homicide detective for the Boston Police Department and a single father. Robert De Niro plays the CIA operative Darius Jedburgh.

Around 3:30pm just as the clouds were rolling in, so, too, were a gold and silver Crown Victoria, and blue Toyota Camry on the back of a flat-bed truck, pickup trucks, ten-wheelers and a generator. The parking lot was filling up with men, women, and children along with movie crew from GK Films. One scene from Edge of Darkness was being filmed in this boating community. When asked why Winthrop, Mark Fitzgerald, location manager, had this to say: "Schedule wise it worked out, location is gorgeous, close to home and it looks great!"

It took approximately 2 hours to set up for this one 3-minute scene. The back drop is Winthrop Harbor between Winthrop Yacht Club and Irv Streeter Pier, Snake Island, Logan Airport and Boston. Lights were set up and positioned in place along with a tall white filter to evenly disperse the light onto the cars. Next the 3 cars were lined up parallel with the light, filter and each other. As things got setup, the crowd was moved over to the green on the Shirley Street side. The crew got busy unloading props, director chairs, lights, cameras, and

tables from the trucks. A smaller truck was used to plug all the electrical wires into. This particular scene is a drive by shooting where, Thomas Craven is seen sitting in his car, head back and bleeding.

Several cuts were rehearsed with the cars strategically positioned with Mel Gibson's stand-in sitting in the front seat of the silver Crown Victoria. More cuts were rehearsed of the Toyota driving between the two crown vics real slow. When Mel Gibson finally arrived, a crew member explained to us what was going to happen next during the live taping. No flash allowed on the cameras because it would interfere with their lighting, cell phones turned off and when he yelled "Rolling", no cameras clicking and all had to be quiet. Aside from a busy Logan Airport and planes taking off via the landing, the filming went well. Around 6:45PM, they finished and Mel Gibson waved his arms in the air to thank everyone for coming. Then he hopped into his black Escalade and drove out of Winthrop.

A few of our town councilors were there to watch and meet Mr. Gibson, except Gibson didn't show up until 5:30pm and we were told he isn't one for photo shoots. In between the filming of the different parts in this scene I met Gibson's stand-in and he was very accommodating. His name is Patrick and picking up on the Irish accent, I found out he's from Cork, Ireland.

It has also been brought to my attention that this was a closed set. Therefore, I was asked not to run or service any shots of Mel Gibson or the actual scene for a few months until the film is ready to be released.



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Above, Town Councillors Jeanne Maggio, Linda Calla, Russell Sanford, Thomas Reilly, James Letterie, and Richard Gill and Jim Marr (far left) of the Chamber of Commerce welcomed location manager Mark Fitzgerald (center) to the town Friday afternoon for the filming of the movie, Edge of Darkness, starring Mel Gibson and Robert Deniro.

At left, Kelli Conway (far right) brought Colby Dassao, Camden Conway, Charlie Dassao, and Lilly Conway to the Town Landing Friday to catch a glimpse of movie star Mel Gibson who was filming a scene for his upcoming movie, Edge of Darkness, in the town.

Grand Opening Amazing Bargain Store