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Man In The Chair Comes To MPTF





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-Randy Turrow, production manager

Much of the feature film *Man in the Chair* was shot on location at MPTF November 29 through December 2, 2005. For writer and director Michael Schroeder, MPTF wasn't just an attractive backdrop for the film; it was the inspiration for the plot.

The idea first came to Schroeder nearly 20 years ago when he was working on a film with comedian Jonathan Winters who would share stories of his visits to MPTF. The idea evolved over many years to an inspirational story about achieving dreams and the aging community in society today.

Man in the Chair stars Christopher Plummer, M. Emmet Walsh and Robert Wagner and centers around a troubled teenager who aspires to be a film director. With the help of residents at a familiar-looking retirement community for people in the entertainment industry, the teen creates a documentary for a film contest about the plight of the nation's elderly. The residents help the young boy achieve his dreams of directing and in turn, the residents relive their dreams of movie making.

Just like the movie, the filming of *Man in the Chair* on campus gave real-

life MPTF residents the opportunity to relive their dreams of filmmaking. Several residents and volunteers appear in the movie as extras. The film's cast and crew were equally inspired by MPTF and the opportunity to interact with residents.

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nified movie and television pioneers touched everyone on set,” said producer and production manager, Randy Turrow. “This translated into enormous gifts of energy from the actors and crew that’s apparent in every frame of the film.”

The movie’s director and producers wanted to give something back to MPTF and their residents for all that they contributed to the movie, so it was a priority for Schroeder to have the first screening of *Man in the Chair* on campus. A standing-room-only crowd of residents, volunteers

and employees packed the Louis B. Mayer Theater on June 26. The film and Schroeder’s ability to capture their voice and circumstances with integrity visibly moved MPTF residents.

Following the screening, residents had the opportunity to ask the cast and crew questions and contribute their point of view. “It was all about the power of cinema and how it moves people,” said Turrow. “It’s amazing what these residents have done to entertain and inspire others for so many years. It was rewarding to give a little back to them by sharing this experience.”

The movie, slated for a spring 2007 release, was produced with a limited \$2.5 million budget. By filming at MPTF and using an all-union cast and crew, the director and producers created a high-quality film that looks more like a \$60 million production. “Working at MPTF is a production manager’s dream,” said Turrow. “The generous cooperation from staff and residents and the stunning facility visuals were only exceeded by the humbling significance of filming at MPTF – an historic and shining example of how society can respectfully respond to the needs of its elderly.”