

Jackson Heights This Week

Filmmaker Wraps Shoot 'In Montauk'

Last week, Queens Director Kim Cummings wrapped principle photography on what will be her largest production to date - her first feature film, titled "In Montauk." And in just a matter of months, the Jackson Heights resident hopes to see "In Montauk" on the big screen.

Cummings began her career writing scripts and eventually transitioned to creating short films. Her first short, "Weeki Wachee Girls," was released in 2000. The film played in more than 70 film festivals across the world. After a temporary hiatus to raise twins, Cummings decided to try her hand at the big leagues of the movie world - a feature film.

Cummings spent last week filming the final scenes of the movie in front of Elmhurst Hospital, at a venue in Long Island City and at her 81st Street apartment.

"In Montauk" is modern film noir that opens and closes with a death. The piece is centered around a love triangle. "In Montauk"'s main subject, a pregnant photographer, is torn between her husband and her muse and the choice between her family and her passion.

"To me, it's really at its heart about the opposing pulls of family and art," she said. "How do you sort of marry those two things? I guess, ultimately, I'm saying it's nearly impossible."

Cummings said the process of making a feature film was both challenging and exciting, especially in terms of plot and character development.

"The most interesting thing for me was it's a much bigger character arch for the actors," she said.

Cummings said filming, which was split between Queens and Montauk, was completed in record time.

"It was amazing," she said. "We shot it in 10 days, which is sort of unheard of for a feature."

Cummings credits the smooth process to the film's cast, crew and also her Western Queens community.

Elmhurst Hospital allowed her to film a

scene outside of its emergency room. Also, Cummings reached out with posts on many local blogs seeking props, extras and even babies to serve in the cast.

"My community support was more in the background of the film," she said. "What I did get was leads to babies and leads to stuff through the community. Also, I had friends in the community



Photo by Mike Bassman

Kim Cummings just completed filming her first full length movie.

who helped out with my kids."

Cummings will take the next few months to edit, sound mix and score the film. She said she is hoping it will be ready for fall submissions in all the major film festivals.

Cummings has high aspirations about when the film will be revealed to the public.

"Next January at Sundance would be the ideal," she said.

For more information about Kim Cummings and "In Montauk," visit www.sirenstalefilms.com.

Reach Reporter Kaitlyn Kilmetis at kkilmetis@queenstribune.com, or (718) 357-7400, Ext. 128.

— Kaitlyn Kilmetis



Photo by Aja Nisensun

The three main characters of "In Montauk" during a shoot.

No Weekend G Train Service

Subway riders may find additional hurdles in their Saturday and Sunday commute as the G train remains suspended for the next few weekends.

The G train, which provides service between Church Avenue in Brooklyn and Forest Hills-71st Avenue station Queens, will be shut down for maintenance purposes each weekend from Jan. 15 through Feb. 8. Service will halt from 10:30 p.m. on Friday and remain suspended until 5 a.m. Monday morning.

To provide additional means of travel, there will be free shuttle buses and the E, F and R Trains will provide alternate service. During the day, the R Train will make all G Train stops between Forest Hills and Queens Plaza. This weekend at night, the E train will make all G train stops between Forest Hills and 36 St.

There will be free shuttle buses between Queens Plaza and Jay Street and between 21 St./Queensbridge and Jay St./Borough Hall. Also, the A and F trains will make all G train stops between Queens Plaza and Hoyt-Schermerhorn station.

During the four weekend closure, the MTA will perform a switch replacement at Bedford-Nostrand, asbestos removal at Greenpoint Avenue, a fan plant replacement at Jackson Avenue and track maintenance work at various locations.

For more information, visit www.mta.info.

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— Kaitlyn Kilmetis



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