

STREET SCENE

Inside **S**

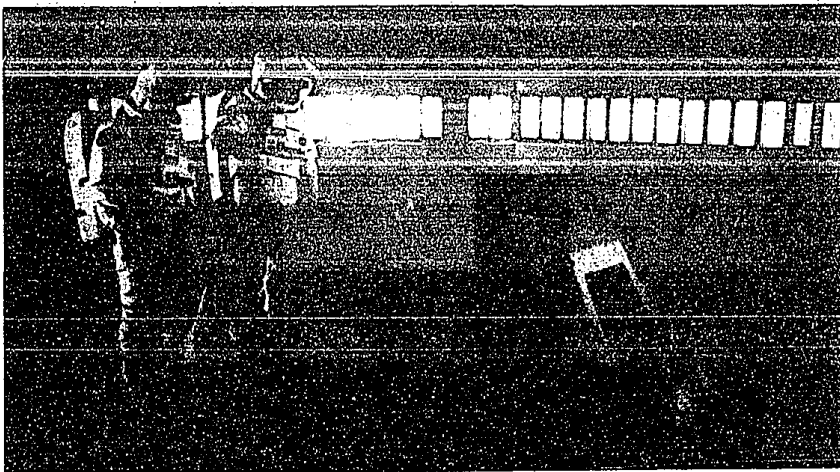
One with nature

Paul Winter has made a name for himself not only because of his ability with the soprano saxophone and the use of wildlife sounds in his recordings. The musician will be bringing his brand of music to Orchestra Hall. Find out more about Winter on Page 6D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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HOLLYWOOD'S IN TROY



photos courtesy of MAGIC LANTERN PRODUCTIONS

In "Moontrap," members of a crew of astronauts on a routine shuttle mission examine human remains found when they discover an ancient spaceship.

Movie magic comes to Michigan

By Lynn Waldemith
special writer

The opening of a motion picture at 20 Detroit area theaters Friday will mark one small step for the state of Michigan and one giant leap for its producer-director, Robert Dyke.

"Moontrap," a \$3.5 million production, was filmed entirely in southeastern Michigan. Not only was the movie made in Michigan, but everyone involved with the production — more than 200 cast and crew members — with the exception of the three main characters and two crew members, is from the state.

"Moontrap" took three months to film and involved two large warehouses and a studio in Troy.

"This is probably the first movie shot here (in Michigan) that didn't have to be filmed here," said Dyke, founder of Magic Lantern Productions in Farmington Hills.

"In other words, a Michigan setting isn't used in the film itself. But I wanted to shoot it here because I wanted to use people who I've worked with for years and I wanted to be able to go home at night, too."

Dyke has 30 years' experience in filmmaking and video production. Magic Lantern Productions has produced more than 400 commercials, industrial shows and theatrical shorts.

The firm specializes in live action and animated commercials and is known for the high quality of its special effects work and the recreation of classic film moments in commercial spots.

IN ADDITION to extensive experience in commercials, Dyke did special effects work on the film, "Evil Dead II," and the Steven Spielberg production of "Harry and the Hendersons."

Dyke, 44, and his family live in West Bloomfield. Although he has created some educational and short films, he has always wanted to

make feature films.

"As a kid, I always related to comic books," he said. "I was very attracted to science fiction."

DYKE, WHO grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Wayne State University, asked Tex Ragdale to write the script for "Moontrap." Ragdale works for an advertising agency in Southfield and lives with his family in Birmingham. He and Dyke have been friends since kindergarten.

"We both have always been interested in science fiction," Ragdale said. "Some of our favorites are things from the '50s like 'Forbidden Planet.' So we began plan-

ning a story about a race of robots on the moon who would threaten humans on earth.

"Everyone's seen that footage of the astronauts walking on the moon."

"Moontrap" takes place approximately three years from now. It is about a crew of astronauts on a routine shuttle mission who, among other things, discover an ancient spaceship and the hostile robots. The science fiction thriller features scenes of the moon, a spaceship, ruins of an ancient civilization and NASA's Mission Control.

It took Ragdale 2½ years to finish the script for "Moontrap." After finishing his first screenplay, he took on an active role in the film's production.

HE WAS responsible for getting Walter Koenig to play the lead role of Jason Grant, the film's hero. Koenig is best known for his role as the Starship Enterprise's Pavel Chekov in the "Star Trek" series.

An emphasis on realism and credibility was important to their conception of the film, Dyke said.

"We thought, 'What if something was discovered up there tomorrow? How would we as contemporaries respond to it?'" he said. "We tried to keep it realistic. I've always had a problem with sci-fi films set in faraway lands with people named Zandar."

DYKE HOPES "Moontrap" will bring Michigan more recognition as a central location for filmmaking. The state, he said, has achieved a reputation as a center for industrial and commercial production, but not feature film production.

If a film is shot in Michigan, typically, it is because a specific location, such as downtown Detroit, is needed for the film, he said.

The biggest problem in Michigan isn't quality, it's quantity," Dyke said. "We have some very talented film people here, but not a lot of people to choose from. We also have excellent studios here, but not a lot of them."

"You hear about films that are supposed to be made in Michigan, but then it never happens. But we really did it. Real movies can be made here."

The Michigan Film Office helped locate talent and obtain distribution of "Moontrap." But currently no Hollywood films are in production in the state, although the Detroit area is being considered as the location site for a new major motion picture, said Deryl Beasley, film office manager.

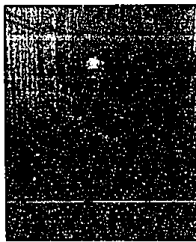
THAT'S NOT to say that the state hasn't been used for films. The Detroit area and other Michigan locations can be seen in "Midnight Run," "Action Jackson," "Tanner '88" (a film for HBO), "Beverly Hills Cop" and its sequel, "Beverly Hills Cop II," "The Rosary Murders" and "Somewhere in Time."

Sue Marx and Pamela Conn of Michigan also drew attention to the state by winning an Academy Award last year for their documentary, "Young at Heart."

"A lot of people in Hollywood like Michigan," Beasley said, "but we've been a reactive film office. We need to become a pro-active film office. We need to become more aggressive in competing for major film productions."



The lead role of Jason Grant, the hero in "Moontrap," is played by Walter Koenig, best known for his role as the Starship Enterprise's Pavel Chekov in the "Star Trek" series.



Producer-director Robert Dyke was all smiles during the filming of "Moontrap."

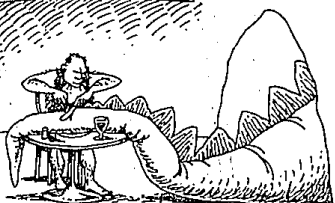
'This is probably the first movie shot here (in Michigan) that didn't have to be filmed here.'

— Robert Dyke

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney

PROBLEMS OF THE NEANDERTHAL SINGLE



Meals you just don't feel like cooking for one person.

Discover fishing — Lakes style

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Q: Four women want to go fishing together. I've been deep sea fishing but I've never taken a charter boat out on the Great Lakes. Can you tell me what is like, what it costs and how to choose a boat? If I didn't get seasick on the ocean, I guess I won't get seasick on a lake, right?

B.H.,
Rochester

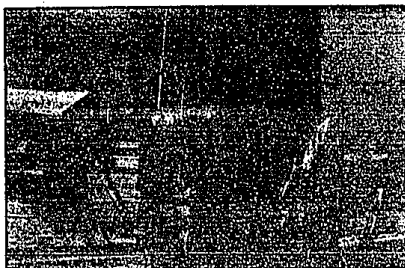
A: Great Lakes fishing is like deep sea fishing, except you don't need to travel as far to the fishing grounds and the fish fighting furiously on your line is a salmon or lake trout instead of a marlin.

What is it like? Your letter took me back to a warm summer day aboard the nine-meter charter boat Ginger Brandy Two as we motored out of the harbor and down the Manistee River, between the light-house and the Coast Guard station, to Lake Michigan last summer.

This great lake can be glassy smooth, but it can also be rough

enough to threaten deep sea fishermen that come in through the St. Lawrence Seaway to the city of Chicago, out of sight across the lake.

Captain Joe Wolff won't go out if the waves are higher than four feet. Our ride was mildly rough, "Just enough to make the fish active," as we entered the lake and Joe made



MICKY JONES

Bue Wagner of the Michigan Tourist Bureau shows off two coho salmon she caught off Manistee.

the first call on his marine radio.

"Connie Gull, this is Ginger Brandy Two WRB9575."

"I'm into the third bank and into 105 feet of water," the radio voice replied. "We had a flurry but I've only seen one fish."

We saw a lot more fish before the morning was out, which is a miracle of sorts. Pollution from cities like Detroit and Chicago had ruined these waters for fishing when the great salmon experiment began, introducing coho and chinook salmon in 1955 and 1957 to clean up the slowwipes which had taken over the lake, and to introduce a new sports fishery into the area.

There weren't many charter boats then, but this year more than 300 members of the Michigan Charter Boat Association will fish for walleye and bass in Lake Erie; salmon and lake trout in lakes Huron, Superior and Michigan. You can get a list of those charter boats from the Michigan Travel Bureau.

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