## SPECIAL EVENTS

## Adventure follows boys seeking 'The Secret Shortcut'



Author: Magical children's book author Mark Teague will be at OshKosh B'Gosh's newest store in the Somerset Collection North , Aug. 17-18.

BY RELLY WIGORIE STATE WATER A STATE WATER A

"The Secret Shortcut," is about two young boys — Wendell and Floyd — who are always late for school. It's not their fault. One day they are confronted by space creatures, then pirates who are loose in the neighborhood. Despite their bost intentions, something keeps getting in the way, causing them to be late to school. Wendell and Floyd work

Wendell and Floyd work

and colorful, they draw readers into the story, geared for children ages 5 to 12. "It's a cute back to school story," said Hally Burak, Scholastic Inc. publicist.

"The Secret Shortcut," is about two young boys. Wendell and Floyd — who are always late for school. It's not their fault. One school. It's not their fault. One school.

Boys will especially enjoy this story. The space creatures look like big bugs, one of the pirates has a peg leg. Wendell and Floyd get muddy, and swing from vice sike monkeys. That's not to say girls won't like the story too.

I don't want to give it away, but the ending is surprising.

"It's open ended," said Teague, the father of a 16-month-old girl. "I want my stories to be an invitation to readers to let their imaginations grow. Kids have imagination naturally. We should encourage children not to lose their imagination and creativity, and not dampen their enthusiasm. We can learn a lot from our children."





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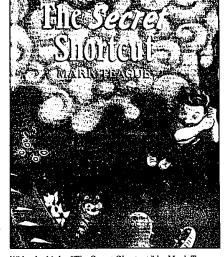
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Event Chaitperson: Judy McCarthy Honorary Chaitpersons: Joseph C. Day, Freudenberg-NOK Marianne Wannow, German Consulate of Detroit Takeshi Kagami, Japanese Consulate of Detroit

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Whimsical tale: "The Secret Shortcut," by Mark Teague, is about two boys who can't make it to school on time because space aliens and pirates keep getting in the

## Directors making movies in Motown

PRNewswire — First, Tim
Allen made a fictitious Detroitarea suburb the set for his runaway ABC hit, "Home Improvement." That show continues to
promote Michigan in a positive
way and now more cameras and
stars are rolling into town to
take advantage of Michigan
take advantage of Michigan
take for the first feature to shoot
Hoover, an independent film
form Helicon Productions, will
see shoot entirely in Michigan
beginning in mid-September.

The Michigan Film Office, part of the Michigan Jobs Commission, has announced an unusually large number of projects shooting here in the coming months.

This fall, CBS will air a new police drama, "EZ Street," on Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. Eastern time.

Starring Ken Olin ("thirtysomething") and Jason Gedrick ("Murder One"), the series will shoot in Detroit five to six times a year to provide realistic footage to complement studio filming done in Los Angeles.

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John Hughes — director of

"Home Alone;" "Ferris Bueller's
Dhy Off; "Planes, Trains and
Automobiles," and much more —
will bring his cast and crew to
the Berrien Springs area for
about a week in August to shoot
his latest project — "Reach the
Rock."

"Another new feature film is now in pre-production in Detroit." Polish Wedding will star Gabriel Byrne (The Usual Suspects; "Little Women") and Lena Olin ("Unbearable Lightness of Being," "Havana") and will film in Michigan from late August through early October.

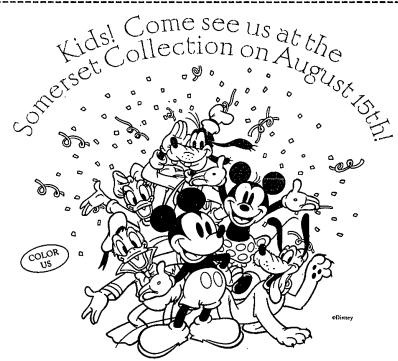
Hoover, an independent film from Helicon Productions, will also shoot entirely in Michigan beginning in mid-September. The family lilm about a talking vacuum cleaner will star at least one big name, but actors have yet to be officially announced.

These projects — combined with a variety of television Projects (A&E Network, QVC, BBC), music videos and an increased number of non-automobile related commercials — mean both money and exposure for the state of Michigan.

of Michigan.

\*As fun as it is to watch the stars come in to film, these projects also have a much more tangible impact on the state, said Doug Rothwell. CEO and Department Director of the Michigan Jobs Commission. They have an obvious tourism value as people see the variety that Michigan has to offer, and the production pumps millions of dollars into the local economy. The last feature film to shoot entirely in Michigan put over \$1 million into our economy, and that was for an HBO production. We expect theatrical releases to spend even more.\*

The Film Office works with production companies to coordinate film projects throughout the state of Michigan. It also works to encourage increased numbers to encourage increased nume of projects to select Michigan.



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				g your entry to the Somerset Collection's e and a chance to take your family to Pari		

Place your entry in the box located across from The Disney Store on the third level of Somerset North the evening of August 15th, before 8:45 p.m. No purchase necessary.

Grand prize drawing at 9:00 p.m. on the Somerset North main stage. There will be additional drawings for prizes from The Disney Store and The Walt Disney Gallery.

During The Somerset Collection's Sneak Preview Celebration on Thursday, August 15th, Disney Entertainment will be performed throughout The Somerset Collection, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



