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## Cinematography

Film crews wrapping up filming of 'Jolene'

By LORIN MCLAIN

The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT It's a wrap Thursday for filming of the movie "Jolene," at least as far as Prescott goes.

The film adaptation of the E.L. Doctorow story starring Dermot Mulroney, Jessica Chastain and Theresa Russell shot for about a week on the courthouse plaza, Llama Street, Mt. Vernon Street, Mile High Middle School, Arizona Pioneers' Home and a home on Marina Street.

The portions of the story actually take place in South Carolina, but for Phoenix-based producer Riva Yares, Prescott was an obvious choice to shoot.

"Prescott looks very much like South Carolina some of the mountains, some of the greenery. I just love the city, so I wanted to film here," Yares said.

The film follows the life of a young woman from the age of 15 to 25, as she survives a traumatic experience in a foster home, four marriages and five relationships, Yares said.

"We follow her life," Yares said. "I relate to it somehow, and I'm sure many young American girls relate to the story."

This is the first big-budget film for Yares, who said her other projects were mostly "five-to-10-minute movies that don't count."

"This was the opportunity to do a great, great movie," she said, adding that she had the blessing of Doctorow to make the film.

Yares said she was determined to hire as many people as she could from Arizona; the cast and crew numbers about 100.

Elements of the story filmed in Prescott include protagonist, Jolene, getting married to her first husband when she is 15, a scene shot in the courthouse; some romantic moments in the mountains; and scenes in the "looney bin," as referred in the book, shot at the Pioneers' Home, Yares said.

Yares, also an art dealer, became inspired to turn the story into film after hearing a reading of the story by Doctorow a couple of years ago.

"It's so visual, and it's so American. I got friendly with the author, and finally he trusted me with the film, and that's how it goes," she said.

"I think film is the ultimate of art, and I kind of reached a ceiling in my profession. I always wanted to do a film by a great author, and it's a great story," she said, adding that her son, Dennis Yares, wrote the script.

Yares chose Dennis Ireland to direct the film, a director she said she greatly

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admires, especially for 1996's "The Whole Wide World," and 2005's "Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont."

Yares is planning to have the film finished in time for the Cannes Film Festival in May. Bidding for distribution would start soon after.

"Jolene" might go into official release in the middle of next year, she said.

Contact the reporter at [lmclain@prescottaz.com](mailto:lmclain@prescottaz.com)

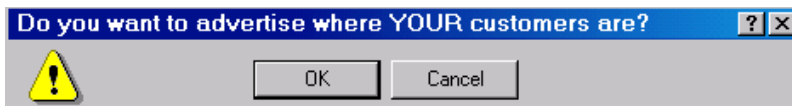
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