

LOCATIONS

ICFM conference in Miami details joint prod'n deals

By XOSE FRANCISCO

MIAMI — Packaging joint production deals will be the main focus of the third annual Inter-American Co-production Film Market & Conference (ICFM), which began Thursday and will run through Sunday at the Hotel Inter-Continental Miami.

The conference is presented by the Florida Inter-American Film, Video, TV & Recording Assn., and is sponsored by the City of Miami, Metro Dade County, and the State of Florida Department of Commerce.

Not a film festival, the ICFM deals specifically with the business of film.

"Miami is the gateway to many business ventures in Europe and Latin America," said Miami Film Commissioner Gloria Swan.

"It's a natural step for Miami's film industry to be part of that globalization," Swan said.

This year, it will present its first Inter-American Lifetime Achievement Award to the Sundance Institute for its promotion of inter-American cooperation, understanding and cultural awareness.

Featured speakers will include actor Edward James Olmos.

Utah theater plans draw opposition

SPRINGDALE, Utah (AP) — The City Council has enacted zoning law changes that could clear the way for construction of a giant-screen theater and hotel complex outside Zion National Park.

Mayor Bob Ralston joined in the four-member council's unanimous vote last week for the revisions, despite opposition from about 40 people at a hearing.

California-based World Odyssey has proposed a 300-seat theater, an 80-room hotel and a 275-space parking lot on 11 acres of private land in Springdale.

But the National Park Service and environmentalists, including Robert Redford, have criticized the project, which would be adjacent to the nearly 150,000-acre park's largest campground.

They say the development would be too close to the park's spectacular rock formations, some of which tower 2,500 feet above the southern Utah landscape.

'JFK' adds to Texas filming revival

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas film industry, as vast and diverse as the Lone Star State itself, is enjoying renewed success after struggling for recognition at home and fighting new competitors for Hollywood's dollars.

It also helps that Kevin Costner, fresh from his Academy Award vic-

Phoenix gets 'Nervous Ticks' when film hits security snags

By SABINE HILTEN

PHOENIX — War is hell — and so are shooting schedules, according to producer Arthur Goldblatt. His current feature film, "Nervous Ticks," almost didn't make it off the ground when officials at John Wayne Airport in Orange County, Calif., citing "security reasons" associated with the Persian Gulf war, rescinded permission to shoot key scenes at its facility just two weeks before production began.

"We thought the airport was perfectly suited to our needs and had done our storyboards based on it," Goldblatt said, elaborating on the "panic and disappointment" the decision caused initially. "When John Wayne fell through, we started looking for places, particularly in Florida, Arizona, Reno, Nev., and Canadian airports, that even with FAA security levels imposed were permitting filming."

tory for "Dances With Wolves," is headed to Dallas to join director Oliver Stone to film portions of "JFK," a movie about the assassination of President Kennedy.

The state promoted itself as "The Third Coast" in the early 1980s, and during the decade when such Oscar-winning films as "Tender Mercies,"

A comedy reflecting the unpredictability of our times, "Nervous Ticks" stars Bill Pullman ("Sibling Rivalry"), Julie Brown ("Earth Girls Are Easy") and Peter Boyle ("The Dream Team") and is being directed by Rocky Lang ("Race for Glory").

"The people at the Phoenix Motion Picture office were really the ones who encouraged us to come here and look, and put us together with the airport people," Goldblatt said. The production was moved to Terminal 3 at Sky Harbor International Airport the final week of March.

Additional technicians and an assortment of minor parts, originally to be cast in Los Angeles, were picked up in Phoenix.

"Nervous Ticks" will wrap in four months. It heads a program of films currently under development by Grandview Avenue Pictures.

LOCATIONS ROUNDUP

Nevada

"Desert Shield" will return to Nevada for further second-unit shoots later this spring. The feature, which stars Rob Lowe, shot last summer in the Lake Tahoe area, but will use Las Vegas-area deserts in the upcoming weeks to serve as Middle East terrain.

Filming is also planned in Las Vegas, according to Bob Hirsch, director of the Nevada Motion Picture Division.

Texas

The USA Film Festival will host a special tribute to filmmaker Charles Burnett during the 21st annual USA Film Festival, beginning Thursday and running through April 25 at the AMC Glen Lakes Theaters in Dallas.

In celebration of Burnett's work, which centers on black families, the festival will present his rarely seen films "Killer of Sheep" and "My

Brother's Wedding," together with "To Sleep With Anger," which Samuel Goldwyn released last year.

Utah

Tina DeFelicantonio has been named as the second recipient of the annual Mark Silverman Fellowship for New Producers by the Sundance Institute.

The fellowship, named in memory of Mark Silverman, a producer of such films as "Raising Arizona" and "Blood Simple," is designed to provide a complete hands-on apprenticeship for aspiring producers. Silverman died of AIDS in 1989.

As a Silverman Fellow, DeFelicantonio, a director and producer of documentary films, will act as an assistant to the producer on a feature film, participate in Sundance's Producers Workshop in July and attend the many screenings and seminars at the Sundance Film Festival in January 1992.

"Terms of Endearment," "The Trip to Bountiful" and "Born on the Fourth of July" were filmed in Texas.

"The word was out," said Tom Copeland, manager of the Texas Film Commission. "Back then you had studios or networks looking for places to do films, and they had union agreements and they wanted to move out of Los Angeles and get away from all of that."

In all, film and television industries spent more than \$826.3 million — about half of which remained in the local communities — to produce feature and telefilms in Texas during the 1980s.

However, bureaucratic shuffling of the state film agency and a growing cast of competitors, plus an overall decline in moviemaking, sapped much of the momentum from the state's film industry.

This year, three major movies are already in production: "Rush" in Houston, "JFK" in Dallas and "Unnecessary Roughness" in the Denton area.

"JFK" has grabbed most of the headlines, and a film crew is working to make the former Texas School Book Depository look the way it did on Nov. 22, 1963 — the day Kennedy was shot down in Dallas.

The Dallas County commissioners last week reversed an earlier decision and granted Stone access to the building's sixth floor and the window perch where the Warren Commission said Lee Harvey Oswald fired the fatal shots.

The building contains an assassination exhibit managed by the Dallas County Historical Foundation, and the commissioners had thought the movie production would be too disruptive.

The Texas Film Commission was formed in 1971, and had about 15 or 20 projects a year through 1983. After that, business annually increased to about 30 productions a year and has remained constant.

The commission's best year was 1989, when 32 major projects, including "Robocop 2," "Texasville" and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" were filmed in the state. The projects had gross budgets of \$116.4 million.

Submissions for the Locations Page, which appears every Friday, may be sent to Duane Byrge, locations editor, The Hollywood Reporter, 6715 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. 90028.