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Roots of Gold

The Official Cast & Crew Newsletter for THE GOLDEN TREE

8.2010.06.21-1

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

The following is an HTML formatted email, in the event you are reading this and see a bunch of garbled text or code below this line your email application is not capable of displaying HTML based email.

Sorry for delay

Father's day and bottling

I did not do much of anything after the shoot on Saturday except showered, ate dinner, and collapsed on the couch and began reminiscing about the day and what was awesome, what I screwed up, what I missed, and what I could have done better — this all went into my journal I write every day.

Father's day being Sunday, all I did was import the footage off of the cards and show the family that showed up what we did — they are all excited and happy about it and cannot wait to see the final movie.

Monday I left at seven in the morning to go help bottle at [Double Oak Winery](#) with Bob Hilsman and Ethan — we bottle 280 cases of 2009 Chardonnay that I helped pick last year and we did not get done bottling until after six in the evening.

When I got home I showered and had dinner then fell asleep about 7:30 when Tamara sent me to bed — I guess everything caught up with me that I was stressing over and worried about. So needless to say, this is my first time back at the office and my desk getting caught up with email, phone calls, and updates.

First day captured!

No words can describe the images, the action, or the people.

We were running a little behind with the props but Aria, Kyrié, and Tamara came through with flying colors Friday evening and Saturday morning — we even had Maureen Young, Tamara's mom, helping us out with organizing the bookcase with pictures, books, and little nick knacks (yes I wrote nick knacks) up until 11:00 p.m. Friday night.

The room looked awesome, at least the bookshelf did; we had lots of old history books, gold rush books, and some great family pictures from the early 1800 's including one of Tamara's great great great grandfather who was a spitting image of Aria (WILLIAM WIMMER [19]).

The crew showed up at 7:00 a.m. and was greeted with fresh brewed coffee, home cooked — just made — cinnamon rolls, orange juice, bagels and cream cheese, fruit, and more thanks to Tamara and Maureen.

After a small production meeting with Brendan Brookes (DP/AD/GRIP/GAFFER/more), Steve (AUDIO), Megan Engle (SCRIPT/SLATE/CONTINUITY/AD/DA/CA/more), Jim Heck (STILL PHOTGRAPHER/VIDEO BTS/PA/CONTINUITY/STORY), and myself we set up the camera for the first take

I greeted Gary Udell (DAD - Producer), Karly Avvakumovits (BROOKE) and her mom Tracy with the same offerings of food; and after a quick wardrobe selection and a couple of read through's, we were ready to begin capturing the first images on the Canon 7D, and oh my what an image.

As we finished up a little late at the house before heading off to the North Star location, our DAD and Producer — Gary Udell — received another credit as Master Chef cooking the burgers and hot dogs for lunch.

As I pulled into the North Start location, I saw Aramis (BENJAMIN WIMMER) and Claire (MARTHA JANE WIMMER) running on the lawn and through the trees; their outfits brought me great joy and excitement as I felt I went back in time — I could not wait to see them with Aria (WILLIAM WIMMER) through the lens with the backdrop we had and the gorgeous day. Aramis and Claire were absolutely delightful; their enthusiasm, energy, and eagerness were contagious for all on the set.

WORDS cannot describe the relief, excitement, and awe that I felt as the day went by — the crew was phenomenal: Everyone worked well together, ideas and positive input were flowing, the actors hit their marks, everyone helped out more than expected — although we could have used another 3 - 5 more people to help as PA's, assistant to Steve, assistant to Brendan, and an assistant to Megan.

I seemed to be the only one standing around doing nothing trying to help them out to make their jobs easier. **I could not have done this without their help. Thank you Brendan, Gary, Steve, Jim, and MEGAN for your hard work.**

The actors made the story come to life, without them it would still be printed words on paper.

I cannot thank any one of you enough for making the day go so well, other than me forgetting a few things, screwing things up, and getting in your way — you have made a fabulous start to this project and I am sure that we will get better and better each day we work together and be a professional cohesive unit for the actors to work with.

If I had to put it in words

And these words still do not do justice to your kindness, hard work, and my pleasure watching you do it. (they are also posted on the THE GOLDEN TREE facebook page)

I want to shout out to everyone for Saturday, June 19 -- our first day of lensing. WOW!!!

Unbelievable. Just absolutely amazing.

From the acting in front of the camera: Kyriè, Gary, and Karly were truly a family.

Aria, Aramis, and Claire were fantastic representing 1859: COSTUMES

were Perfect!!

The parents — Rachel, Beth, and Tracy who sacrificed driving up here and missing a few events just to allow these great actors to perform.

To the crew behind the camera:

Steve, Jim, Aria, Kyriè, and Gary for all your help, insights, and ideas; Gary for his Master Chef work on lunch, Aria for his art work and drawing abilities, Jim for being a second set of non biased and clear minded eyes, and Steve for his professional demeanor to start us off and being a role model.

Tamara, Maureen, and Doug for the extra art work on the props, the location, and patients (the people behind the man that make the man), and Maureen for helping with bookcase decoration.

Megan. Top notch script / slate / and organization. Thank you for not having have to worry about that end. An important job and you deserve the kudos.

And finally Brendan, our illustrious DP and camera. It would not have been possible with out you. The images are stunning and drive the story.

Websites to remember, visit, and share.

Information, news, and fun stuff

<http://www.thegoldentree.ariapictures.com> Official website of movie

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Golden-Tree/118070761560351>

Official Facebook page of movie

– PEACE and God Bless

gerald martin davenport

writer • director • editor

the golden tree

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