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Lex officials approve Disney film contract

By DEBORAH MARTINEZ
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Casting call for 'Pearl Harbor' extras begins next week

Corpus Christi meet Hollywood — and Alec Baldwin and Ben Affleck, too, if you're lucky.

The Lexington Museum on the Bay announced Wednesday it has approved a contract with Disney to film parts of its motion picture epic, "Pearl Harbor," on the

World War II aircraft carrier, said Ret. Navy Capt. Rocco Montesano, executive director for the Lexington museum.

A Disney office already is set up downtown and a casting director is here preparing for an open-

casting call for extras next week, officials said. Production crews should be arriving in Corpus Christi July 13, preparing for filming to begin July 28. The museum will be closed July 28 and will have partial closures throughout

filming, which is likely to end Aug. 5.

"It's going to happen," Montesano said. "They've made so many plans. They've reserved so many hotel rooms. They've reserved so many barges to cart

airplanes in. I don't know what at this point would cause them not to come, short of them canceling the movie."

Montesano declined to release the total amount the museum will be paid for the production, but

did say the income will include \$10,000 for each day of filming and \$5,000 for other production days. The income will far outweigh any visitor revenue that would come in during that time, Montesano said.

While the contract hasn't been sealed with signatures yet,

Please see LEXINGTON/A12

LEXINGTON

FROM A1

Montesano said, both sides approved the final contract draft late Tuesday night. Movie officials have reserved hundreds of hotel rooms in Corpus Christi, said Sandi McNorton, director of marketing. One particular hotel has reported to the Lexington that its reservations with the movie would pull in about \$330,000 in direct revenue.

Tina Kerr, casting director for extras at On Location Casting in Santa Monica, Calif., said she hopes to have 150 extras to portray American men in the movie, and 200 Asian men to portray Japanese men, by the end of next week.

The open extras casting call is tentatively set for July 7 at Big Chip Productions, located at 615 N. Upper Broadway, in the Wells Fargo building, Suite 1865. Applicants can walk into the office between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Kerr began accepting applications for extras in April, asking for Anglo and Asian men specifically. But Kerr said she is interested in anyone, regardless of race, who wants to apply.

"Pearl Harbor" director Michael Bay, known for his work in "Armageddon" and "The Rock," has final approval over the extras, said Kerr, who was in Corpus Christi last week. The fee paid to extras still hasn't been announced.



Affleck



Baldwin

Getting on the screen with stars

For information on how to be an extra in "Pearl Harbor," call the movie company's office in Corpus Christi at 883-2300. Ask for Karla Mitzel.

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"The (4th of July) holiday has thrown a wrench in the plans to move faster," Kerr said. "But I want to have everyone chosen by next week so we can begin fitting them for wardrobe around July 14."

"Pearl Harbor," a Jerry Bruckheimer Productions film starring Alec Baldwin, Ben Affleck and Cuba Gooding Jr., has been filming in Hawaii and Mexico. It will feature events leading up to the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor there and also feature a love tri-

angle between two pilots who grew up like brothers and a Navy nurse who thought one of the pilots had died in an earlier battle.

Baldwin, Affleck and actor Josh Hartnett would come to Corpus Christi if any major actors in the movie were filmed here, Montesano said. Officials with Jerry Bruckheimer Productions declined to comment.

The Lady Lex would be used as an American and a Japanese carrier in the movie. Filming would last through Aug. 5, depending on production schedule. As an American ship, the Lexington would be the USS Hornet, which launched the Doolittle raid on Tokyo in 1942, in retaliation for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Some veterans are upset about the ship's portrayal of a Japanese carrier, said Wayne Hatton, newly elected District 6 commander of the Veterans of Foreign War.

"I believe I can speak for the men and ladies in my district; we are totally upset about it," Hatton said. "We are very, very against that. But you can't fight."

The Lexington has been portrayed as a Japanese carrier in the 1976 movie, "Midway."

"The overall good of the story far outweigh the negatives," Montesano said. "Anybody who really gets to know the story and understands it doesn't really have a problem with it."

Staff writer Deborah Martínez can be reached at 886-3618 or by e-mail at martinezd@caller.com