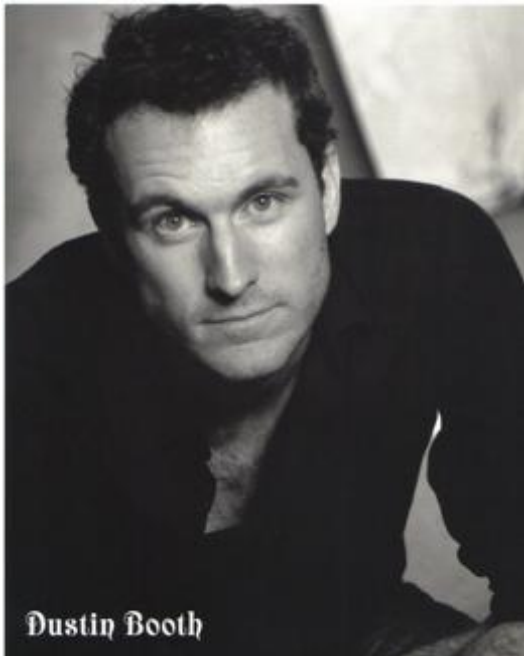


Patriots Day, Concord, goes glam



Dustin Booth
Photo by Courtesy photo
Actor Dustin Booth
By Kerri Roche/Staff Writer
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Lexington -

Although financial setbacks have pushed the filming schedule back, Hollywood producers are still committed to coming to the area to shoot a short movie portraying the legendary nighttime adventures of a famed revolutionary icon.

“The Ride,” a short, low-budget film specifically focused on Paul Revere’s traveling message, was originally slated for a late March production start. Due to the recent withdrawal of the movie’s largest financial donor, filming has been delayed.

However, it is not a matter of if, but when filming will begin, said producer Brian Ide, principal of Meriwether Productions.

The 25-minute film will be aimed towards younger people. With a combination of edgy footage, driving music and fast-paced editing, said Ide, the film will strive to attract and retain the short attention span of young adults.

At the same time, Ide and fellow producer Michael Matsumoto are determined to make the film as historically and regionally accurate as possible. From the beginning,

costumes, architecture and accents have all been under scrutiny because today's youth is not so easily convinced, Matsumoto previously said.

Since the pair first came to the Boston area to scout out locations in late January, progress has been made despite the financial setbacks.

Dustin Booth, 32, an actor from a small town in Wisconsin, has been cast as Revere.

Of the 3,000 actor submissions, Booth was picked from the audition process because he had "the best aura we were looking for," said Ide. He appeared to be "somebody who had the sense of the weight of the world on their shoulders."

Booth has previously appeared in commercials for Best Buy and play productions. Most recently, he has worked on the set of "Prison Break" as a featured extra.

When talking with Booth, it is obvious he has a verbal hurdle to overcome – a mishmash of a Midwestern, Canadian and South Dakotan accent.

"They're not going to let that slide," said Booth of the producers. Like many famous actors, Booth said he has the ability to turn on and off both his personality and pronunciation.

Regional accents have been a concern for Ide and Matsumoto from the beginning. Almost 90 percent of the speaking roles, said Ide, will be cast from the Boston area.

"We're very intentional about using local people," Ide previously said. "We don't want to be just Hollywood coming in [to the area]."

Since the filming date's pushback, the two producers and modern-day Revere will return to the area to take in the Patriots Day celebrations.

"I want to witness Patriots Day" in the Boston area, said Booth. He hopes the visit will provide him with further character development as he soaks up the regional festivities and waits for funding to come in.

A majority of the \$100,000 budget has been dedicated to production costs, including high-quality sound and lighting. Members of the cast and crew are receiving minimal pay, said Ide, and a project of this nature is only made possible with the collaborative efforts of devoted people.

Since the film's largest contributor has backed out of the commitment, almost half of the total budget needs to be replaced. The pair of producers has since considered making production cuts, but "if we push ourselves to shoot it for less, we risk a shoddy film."

Logistically, pre-production progress has been moving forward. The producers locked in the Old Sturbridge Village as a location for a large chunk of filming. Wider angles will

be easier to shoot in a location without modern-day fixtures such as streetlights or paved roads, said Ide. Some of the shots will still be done along the Battle Road.

The producers, along with Booth, are still hoping to start filming in April, although the shoot date will be determined by funding.

The uncertainty in production has not swayed the determination of the leading man, however, as he continues to grow his hair out in preparation for a Revere-like hairdo.

“Absolutely not. I am so onboard with this project because of the historical factor,” said Booth.