

Lights! Camera!! Action!!!

Justine Bateman Comes To BC Campus To Film Television Movie

The Brevard College pool in Boshamer Gymnasium is usually a place where you can find people swimming laps, enjoying the cool water, or learning various aquatic skills. But on Saturday, April 3, the familiar area around the pool became a treacherous forest, and the normally calm waters became churning whitewater rapids.

The occasion was the filming of

"The Hunter," a made-for-TV movie that was being filmed in Transylvania County by Laurens Production, a Los Angeles-based production company. The stars were Justine Bateman, who starred opposite Michael J. Fox in the hit series "Family Ties," and Joe Penny of TV's "Riptide" and "Jake and the Fat Man."

The entire far corner of the pool

was transformed over the course of a few hours into a river bank, with the movie crew hauling in trees, bushes, ferns, rocks, dirt, logs, and camouflage netting to create the illusion.

Special effects technicians then placed high-pressure air hoses on the bottom of the pool and ran high-pressure water hoses to the sides of the pool. The air hoses, when turned on, pumped enough air into the water to make the whole corner of the pool seem like a big jacuzzi, simulating the whitewater of the river. The water hoses were used to simulate the spray and mist of the river.

After the special effects and scenery were all in place, the cameras, lights, reflecting boards, director's chairs, and assorted other movie-making equipment were all distributed throughout the pool area. All in all, it was a very weird scene.

The movie is based on the story of a couple who are kidnapped while on a camping trip, only to elude their captors. The chase is then on, with Bateman's character running from Penny's character through the wilderness. In order to elude the kidnapper, Bateman's character must at one point take to the river and eventually go over a set of waterfalls.

Most of the river and wilderness scenes were filmed in Transylvania

County, including the takes of stunt doubles (hooked up to safety harnesses) going over Looking Glass Falls in Pisgah National Forest. However, due to bad weather and cold water, the directors needed a more comfortable aquatic setting for their actress to film the close shots. That's where the Brevard College pool came in.

Producers contacted college officials on Friday, and on Saturday the transformation began. Bateman arrived on campus around 2 p.m., and the crew began shooting around 3 p.m. The shots included Bateman in the turbulent water, swimming through spray, and jumping off of a platform erected at the side of the pool.

The actress' presence on campus caused some stir, with a crowd of students gathering outside the pool to view the proceeding through the glass wall. However, when the shooting started, the producers had the set closed to spectators, and the area outside of the pool was roped off.

Bateman was also somewhat leery of having her picture taken, preferring to shake hands rather than be photographed.

The shoot lasted all afternoon, but the next day you could hardly tell that the transformation had ever taken place.

According to the producers, "The Hunter" will air on CBS next fall.



The BC pool looked like a hollywood movie set, with directors, actors, producers, and camera and lighting technicians filling the area around the pool (above). At right, things are not what they seem; Justine Bateman is actually in the safety of the Boshamer Pool, not the rapids of a whitewater river.

