

MTV comes to Clackamas to interview cast on the set of 'Twilight'

Vampires were not the only out-of-town visitors lurking on the damp set of "Twilight." MTV writer Larry Carroll and cameraman James LaCina came from Los Angeles to the Clackamas Metro area to interview the film's cast. "I travel a lot to go to different movies," Carroll said. Carroll has been in the Clackamas area for eight years, working specifically out of Santa Clara. He writes for the MTV Vies blog, which he thinks is the perfect job. "Sweet! I totally pwned these guys," Carroll exclaimed, because he gets paid by MTV to do something he loves. The Sundance Film Festival, in January, was the first time that Carroll heard about "Twilight." "Female lead Kristin Stewart just finished up a small indie movie, "Yellow Handkerchief," while Carroll interviewed her. She mentioned that she would soon be starring in "Twilight." The blog, which was the outcome of that interview, ended up setting the MTV Web site's comment record. The old record of comments was 600; readers were asked to vote on whether The Volt should play the villain in "Twilight." "Twilight" not only beat, but shattered, that record with a total of over 2,100 comments. The amount of interest from readers intrigued Carroll, and he decided to go to a bookstore to pick up the entire series by Stephanie Meyer. "My wife has now read it!" Carroll laughed. Carroll's work can be seen on viesblog.mtv.com.

'Twilight': on the set at Clackamas

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"It's a drama. It's a love story," said Peter Silbermann, the publicist for the film, who is from New York. "He's a vampire; she's not."

The role of Bella will be played by Kristin Stewart, who was recently in "Into the Wild" and "Yellow Handkerchief," a small indie film shown at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Robert Pattinson, better known as wizard Cedric Diggory from "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," will play Edward.

The director of "Twilight" is Catherine Hardwicke,

who has directed several other films in the past several years, including "Lords of Dogtown" and "Thirteen."

Most of "Twilight" is being shot in the cafeteria and a biology lab at Madison High School, in Portland. The segment shot at Clackamas inside and around Greenhouse #2 will be a four-minute extension of one of the biology-class scenes.

Many cast trailers and large school buses were squished into the parking lots surrounding Clairmont Hall, fairly ineffectively hidden from the road by green



TOP: Photo by Lisa Sellars Clackamas Print
ABOVE: Photo by Emily Walters Clackamas Print

trees. The day went through fits of heavy rain, clouds and short sun breaks, punctuated by the sounds of crew members bustling around the set, and almost complete silence when the magic words of "quiet on set!" were yelled.

Clackamas was part of a crammed 47-day shooting schedule for the movie, shortened from the original plan of 60 days because of budget constraints.

About 130 members of the cast and crew were on-set at the college for the 24-hour filming period.

"We have our own small army," Silbermann laughed.

Many extras, in fact, are from the local region.

According to

Silbermann, there was "open casting for extras and supporting roles in Portland and Longview."

This area was chosen for filming because of the overcast weather.

"It turned out perfect; it's beautiful," Silbermann said of Clackamas' lushly green campus.

"I think it is fricking awesome that this movie is based in the Northwest," said Nicole Donner, a 21-year-old fan who had been keeping tabs on the filming process.

While some fans may be worried that the movie will deviate considerably from the original story, relief may be found in the fact that the author, Meyer, is staying

involved. She even has a cameo in the film.

"We consulted with her because we wanted it to be right," Silbermann said.

"If we do our demographics right, we expand the audience range," he added.

Currently, there are no definite plans to turn the rest of the series into movies, although readers have good reason to be hopeful.

"One would hope so. If this is a success, I'm sure they will," Silbermann said.

"Twilight" will be in theaters Dec. 12 of this year.

- Print reporters Lisa Sellars and Jess Sheppard contributed to this report.

TOP: A sneak peek at part of the segment of the film, which was shot at Clackamas; Kristin Stewart and Robert Pattinson play the characters of Bella and Edward, respectively.

LEFT: Leads Kristin Stewart and Robert Pattinson do an on-camera interview with the MTV crew between filming the partial scene at the college.

RIGHT: Robert Pattinson hugs himself in the chilling cold while watching Kristin Stewart speak to MTV.



Emily Walters Clackamas Print

Robert Pattinson

The Print was able to speak briefly with male lead Robert Pattinson during a break in shooting and after his interview with MTV.

"I'm getting old," Pattinson commented, explaining that his 22nd birthday is May 13.

In "Twilight," Pattinson is one of a family of vampires, who ends up falling for the human Isabella (Bella) Swan.

"I initially wanted to be Bella," he joked.

Pattinson has enjoyed the filming so far, especially because, as a vampire, he takes part in most of the action sequences.

"It is cool to be a vampire," he said. "I get to kill people."

Although the weather at Clackamas was overcast and dreary, Pattinson has enjoyed his time in Oregon thus far.

"It's nice; I really like Portland," he said.



PATTINSON



Lisa Sellars Clackamas Print

MTV crew of cameraman James LaCina (left) and writer Larry Carroll (right) show off their equipment after finishing an interview with leads Robert Pattinson and Kristin Stewart.