

PARTING SHOT

A weekly snapshot from The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer photographers



The Lady Washington sails up the Columbia River on its way to the East End Mooring Basin Tuesday. The Lady Washington will be offering tours and sails during the Goonies' 30th anniversary celebration.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Cannon Shots: A film's love song to Cannon Beach

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

More words have been written about "The Goonies" than all the works of Godard or Antonioni, LOL, and this week there are going to be a lot more. It's the 30th anniversary of the movie and the North Coast will be host to fans and buffs to meet the stars, trace hallowed film location grounds and share the fun.



R.J. Marx

For those who grew up with it, in the words of one 33-year-old Cannon Beach resident, "I watched it so many times I wore out the VHS tape."

Alas, I was in the age group that fell between the Goonies cracks. But I did catch up with the film 30 years later. On Memorial Day weekend I powered up the laptop DVD with the goal of understanding the Goonies phenomenon. Beware! There is a LOT of screaming and long scenes too complicated to really figure out. Characters have names like Chunk and Mouth and Data. But you'd be cheating yourself to get all snooty. This film has survived three decades because of a more archetypal appeal.

I like best what Roger Ebert wrote at the time of its release: "Goonies," walks a thin line between the cheerful and the gruesome, and the very scenes the adults might object to are the ones the kids will like the best."

In this year's March Atlantic Monthly (yes, Goonies recognized by Atlantic Monthly!) Garin Pimia wrote: "Generations of Americans can still



Daily Astorian file photo

Cannon Beach and Astoria were the backdrops for the adventure comedy.



Daily Astorian file photo

Filming in Cannon Beach during production of the movie.

remember a time when parents and their kids could go to the multiplex and enjoy orig-

inal youth-oriented films that weren't either animated, part of a billion-dollar superhero fran-

chise, or adaptations of overwrought young adult novels."

The analysis is right on. The audience Pimia describes is returning to Astoria and Cannon Beach three decades later to celebrate the lost remembrance of their youth, the inspiration and the excitement they felt when they were young enough to fall hook, line and sinker for a magical adventure story.

How that story came to possess magic was because of the superior talents of the filmmakers, including executive producer Steven Spielberg, director Richard Donner, and scriptwriter Chris Columbus, along with

the exuberant performances of its cast. And the anchor for all of us on the North Coast is the locations. The film is a love song to Astoria and Cannon Beach. According to fast-rewind.com, a film location website, the truck rally takes place near Haystack Rock; Brand rides Data's sister's bike at the entrance road to Ecola State Park, and along this same long road is where the four boys ride their bikes.

Long, long ago in a place far away, the CBS documentary series "The 20th Century" immortalized "the Rock," a stern, imposing close-up of the Rock of Gibraltar. "Get a piece of the rock"

was the message. "The Goonies" made Haystack Rock its artful symbol, a precursor of the worlds that George Lucas and Pixar were only able to construct using animation or computer technologies.

For all the film's silliness, the Rock is real, solid, and offers a pathway into the time-space continuum. For those who live and visit here, it is also part of our backyard.

Remember: Goonies never say die!

R.J. Marx is the editor of the Seaside Signal and the Cannon Beach Gazette and the North Coast reporter for The Daily Astorian.

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30th
anniversary celebration

FANS