



Reimagining Bigfoot

Movie filmed partially in Falls City casts mythical beast in a new light

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — A cool rain fell and the clouds closed in, creating a feeling of isolation.

The local sheriff quietly ducked into the house, unsure he wanted to see what he was about to see.

He put away what he thought were superstitious beliefs years ago, but he may have to grasp onto them again as evidence mounts of a mysterious danger.

The rain poured harder on the foothills town, the fog drifted in, and the sense of "something is out there" becomes palpable.

This is Oh-Mah's domain, and the creature has been staking his claim.

That is the set up for the scene in the feature-length film "Primal Rage: The Legend of Oh-Mah," filmed on March 9 in Falls City.

Oh-Mah is better known as Bigfoot. It seems fitting that the movie shot a few scenes in Falls City in the middle of the same forests the mythical creature would call home.

That is where Patrick Magee, the film's director and co-writer, would like the movie's parallel with modern Bigfoot lore to end.

"I always felt that in the world of horror movies, they're lacking a really good,



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Patrick Magee "Primal Rage" director, right, goes over a scene with actor Jackey Neyman Jones on March 9. Several scenes in the movie were filmed in Falls City.

serious Bigfoot movie," Magee said. "I always wanted to make something like that, and have as much time as possible to make something that I would be happy with."

Magee took almost a decade to perfect everything from how the creature looks to creating a story that doesn't cast Oh Mah as giant and frightening, but lacking in brain power.

The first part is right in Magee's wheelhouse. Magee specializes in special effects makeup, animatronics and monster suits. He's worked

movie magic on "Men in Black 3," "Alien vs. Predator," and "Jurassic Park 3." Once Magee gave the monster a body and face, he began working on it as a character. Magee's Oh-Mah is based on Native American legend and is all the more frightening because of his human-like intelligence.

"By no means is he just a big slobbery kind of monster," Magee said. "He's intelligent, stealthy, calculating. I consider him the missing link ... Not what we've seen in any other Bigfoot movie." Magee's horror movie

found itself in Falls City by way of another — "Manos Returns." Falls City resident Jackey Neyman Jones, the star and producer of the in-the-works sequel to "Manos: The Hands of Fate" also has a small role in Primal Rage.

Jay Lee, the co-writer and director of cinematography for Primal Rage, also worked on a failed Manos sequel. While filming the doomed movie, Lee told Jones about Magee's project. Years later, Magee asked Jones to consult on the scene that was shot at her home last week. "I feel really amazed and



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
The crew prepares to film a scene in the rain on March 9.

being sheriff, he has to let go of the "structured and programmed" part of his life, Magee said.

Her backyard is a scene of shift for the sheriff, a Native American played by Eloy Casados, who begins to see proof of what he's long dismissed as folklore.

He's talked into attending a peyote healing ceremony for Jones' character, Verna Six Trees, who has cancer.

Jones, with her ex-husband, participated in ceremonies marking their marriage and other occasions in real life. They agreed to help make that scene realistic, without giving away too much about the ritual.

"I really liked that Patrick was so humble and coming at it with respect," Jackey Jones said.

The ceremony becomes a peyote-inspired vision quest for the sheriff. After years of

being sheriff, he has to let go of the "structured and programmed" part of his life, Magee said.

"While he's participating in the scene, he has his visions and it gets really real to him," Magee said. "The fantasy aspect of the movie becomes real, believable."

Meanwhile, Oh-Mah continues to inflict terror in the forest, but has become reckless, Magee said.

"He's doing bad things. Like humans, when you start doing bad things that aren't right, there's consequences," Magee said.

Those wondering what Magee means by "doing bad things," the wait won't be long.

The Falls City scenes were the last to be filmed with the premiere slated for the fall.

"I don't believe that it is almost done, but it's close," Magee said.

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