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# Star-studded feature film production underway in Sooke

MICHAEL D. REID / TIMES COLONIST  
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Beau Bridges will be in Sooke shooting the independent feature film Elsewhere. Photograph By Michelle Siu, The Canadian Press

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Parker Posey, Aden Young and Beau Bridges head an all-star cast in Sooke for the independent feature film Elsewhere.

The entire six-week shoot of the comedy-drama will take place on Vancouver Island, and has attracted the biggest cast of familiar faces to the region since the Gracepoint series was filmed here in 2014.

“We’re here because of a magical house out in Sooke overlooking the water up on a cliff that is absolutely spectacular and plays a pivotal role,” said executive producer Shawn Williamson, the chairman of Vancouver-based Brightlight Pictures.

Bridges is best known for The Fabulous Baker Boys, and is the winner of three Emmy awards.

Young, star of the Sundance Channel series Rectify, plays Bruno, a man who is evicted by his in-laws and will stop at nothing to win back the seaside cottage he and his late wife built together.

Posey has appeared in about 30 films, mostly independents. She plays the cottage’s new tenant, whom Bruno encounters with life-changing results when he returns to the property posing as a handyman.

“It’s sort of a beautiful, intimate film, not a big action thing,” Williamson said.

Brightlight is partnering on Elsewhere with producers J. Todd Harris and Chris Cole.

Other notable names include actor-comedian Ken Jeong, known for The Hangover trilogy, Jackie Tohn (American Idol, Netflix’s GLOW) and Jacki Weaver, who was also in Gracepoint.

The film marks the English-language debut for writer-director Hernán Jiménez, a Costa Rican filmmaker with whom Cole collaborated on Entonces Nosotros, a romantic comedy Jiménez wrote, directed and co-starred in.

“He’s an amazing filmmaker,” Williamson said. “His last film was gorgeous and it’s because of that we wanted to be involved with this.”

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Williamson was a producer on Disney's Descendants 2, which was filmed in the capital region last year. His company was also here in 2003 to shoot 22 episodes of the science-fiction sitcom series Alienated for CHUM's Space channel.

Brightlight produced several low-budget TV movies in the capital region in 2004, and a year later filmed sequences for Uwe Boll's action fantasy Dungeon Siege in East Sooke.

The challenge of shooting here then was the lack of infrastructure and a scarcity of crews. Williamson said that is less of an issue now, but he still had to bring most crew over from Vancouver.

"You're shooting in an area that isn't overshot, that's very fresh and beautiful and really welcomes you," Williamson said.

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