

## Hollywood North at the Distillery District



**February filming in Hollywood North 2008 ... no snow-making required**

With the protracted screen-writers' strike settled in the nick-of-time, February 24<sup>th</sup> will bring Oscar Night to Hollywood and film-lovers around the world. This seems a good time to explore the astonishing role the Distillery District has played in Canadian and international film-making.

Between September 1990, when the Gooderham & Worts Distillery shut down, and

May 2003, when the new Distillery Historic District officially opened, hundreds of movies, television shows, commercials, and music videos were shot at the site, making it the largest film location outside Hollywood. Some of the world's biggest stars wandered these streets and strutted their stuff in the nearly abandoned buildings. The quintessentially Canadian industrial site masqueraded as Antebellum Virginia, Victorian London, turn-of-the-century PEI, Prohibition-era Chicago, Jazz-era Harlem, Depression-era New York, Nazi concentration camps, post-war Montreal, and futuristic X-mania. Occasionally, it masqueraded as contemporary Toronto.



**Chicago cameras**

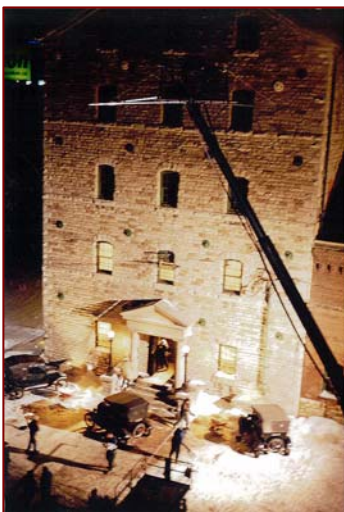
Filming has tapered off since the nearly deserted Victorian industrial enclave has become a lively, arts and entertainment centre in its own right. But the cinematic craft continues to be hotly debated over coffee, drinks, or a scrumptious meal by Distillery denizens. And a few films and commercials – such as the Ontario Tourism ad featured in the opening photograph – continue to be shot there.

Although none of this year's Oscar-nominated movies was filmed at the Distillery District, one of this year's nominees – 29-year-old, actor, writer, and director **Sarah Polley** - practically grew up in the District. From 1990 to 1996, she starred as Sara Stanley in the hugely successful TV series, *Road to Avonlea*, which transformed distillery buildings and lanes into small-town Prince Edward Island in the early 1900s. Still houses became post offices and hardware stores; former stables became ... real stables; genteel folk and ragamuffin kids swept and darted around the site. This year, Polley is nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Away From Her*. Polley not only wrote the script (based on an Alice Munro short story), but directed the film, and coaxed Julie Christie out of quasi-retirement ... into giving an Oscar-nominated performance as Fiona Andersson, who is slipping into the fog of Alzheimer's disease.



*Road to Avonlea*

Over the years, other Canadian actors and directors with Oscar nominations to their credit, have worked at the Distillery District. These have included the formidable Canadian couple of **Hume Cronyn** and *Driving-Miss-Daisy* **Jessica Tandy** (in **Deepa Mehta**'s 1994 *Camilla*); *Ghostbuster* and Tandy-costar **Dan Aykroyd** (*Tommy Boy* in 1995); native actor, writer and singer, **Graham Greene** (*PSI Factors: Chronicles of the Paranormal* in 1996); celebrated stage actor, **Kate Nelligan** (*Captive Heart: The James Mink Story* in 1996); and much nominated, life-time achievement award-winner, director **Norman Jewison** (*Bogus* in 1996).



*"Cook County Prison"*

Undoubtedly the best-known and most-nominated picture to be shot at the Distillery District was **Chicago** in 2002. This satirical, mega-musical was nominated for 13 awards, and walked away with six, including Best Picture and Best Supporting Actress (for **Catherine Zita-Jones**, who defeated her also-nominated co-star **Queen Latifah**). The cast also included previous Oscar winners, **Richard Gere** and **Renée Zellweger** who razzle-dazzled their way around the site. The Stone Distillery was transformed into the "Cook County Prison for Women" under a blanket of artificial snow. Although 1920s and '30s Gooderham & Worts wasn't known to be *directly* connected to Chicago's Prohibition King, Al Capone, some G&W booze undoubtedly made its way to the Windy City where "the gin was cold and the jazz was hot."

The list of other Oscar-nominated and winning actors and directors who have plied their trades at the Distillery District, is long. Among others, it includes, in no particular order: Jack Palance, Shirley MacLaine, George C. Scott, Gene Wilder, Jon Voight, Al Pacino (*The Farm*), Cicely Tyson, Tatum O'Neal, Diane Keaton (*The Good*

*Mother*), Jason Robards, Louis Gossett, Jr. (*The James Mink Story*), Whoopi Goldberg, Michael Douglas (*Don't Say a Word*), Robin Williams, Olympia Dukakis, Geena Davis, Gerard Depardieu, Kathy Bates, Liam Neeson, Nicholas Cage, Kevin Spacey, Matt Damon, Russell Crowe (*The Cinderella Man*), Danny Divito, Halle Berry (*X-men*), Forest Whitaker, Mira Sorvino, Ian McKellen, and Ron Howard.

**"THE FARM"**  
ESEO Productions Inc.

SHOOT DAY: Day 44 Thursday, February 21, 2002  
CREW CALL: 500P  
NO FORCED CALLS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE PM

PRODUCTION OFFICE:  
179 Queen's Quay E., Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1R6  
PH: 416.364.4884 FX: 416.364.4885  
KEY CALL: 416.364.4887 FAX: 416.361.4012

LOCATION #1: Goodwin & Wynn,  
85 Mill Street (see map)

LENCH: 1100P

DIRECTOR: Roger Donaldson  
EXEC. PRODUCERS: Jonathan Olshansky, Ron Kisher  
PRODUCERS: Gary Barber, Roger Birnbaum, Jeff Kaplan  
PA: Matthew Galt  
C: Lyle W. Younger

Nearest Hospital: St. Michael's Hospital  
20 Bond Street  
Emergency: 416.940.4889

WEATHER COVER: SC

SC #	DESCRIPTION	IN	OUT	PAGES	LOC
112(1)	INT. NAVY YARDS WAREHOUSE James tells Duke's plan to escape	SC-29	1:1, 39, 106, 109	-	1
112(2)	EXT. NAVY YARDS WAREHOUSE'S CAR Duke's coverage for escape	SC-29	1	-	1
114	EXT. NAVY YARDS WAREHOUSE Duke follows James into warehouse	SC-29	1	2/8	1
115	INT. NAVY YARDS WAREHOUSE James sneaks through warehouse	SC-29	2	1/8	1

Final pages: 1/8

CHARACTER	ARTIST	PIE	REMOVABLES	BLOCKING	ON SET	LOC
1. BUCKLE	Al Pacino	For E.	SNIP	W.R.	-	1
2. JAMES CLAYTON	Colin Farrell	Crew	SNIP	W.R.	1/17	1
3. LAYLA	Debraj Mehta	PROP	W.R.	W.R.	4/17	1
4. ZACK	Garrett Mader	PROP	W.R.	W.R.	4/17	1
5. STUNT COORDINATOR	Steve Lawrence	OT	SNIP	W.R.	4/17	1
10. JAMES STUNT DDL	Chris MacGowan	OT	SNIP	W.R.	4/17	1
10. BLAKE STUNT DDL	Jack Harris	OT	SNIP	W.R.	4/17	1
STUNT SAFETY PERSONNEL	Ed Qualtrick	OT	SNIP	W.R.	4/17	1
STUNT SAFETY PERSONNEL	Tig Fung	OT	SNIP	W.R.	4/17	1

STAND INS:  
BUCKLE Stand In - David Farnes  
JAMES Stand In - James McLean

BUSINES SCREENED BEFORE CALL @ 10P @ DELUXE, 43 Adelaide Street E.

**Call Sheet for Al Pacino  
in *The Farm***

200 Yellow Pages 02-19-02  
199  
200

200 CON... (JMS)

ANOTHER ANGLE  
Ruster smiles. Pulling up. Registering the tight quarters. He takes a deep breath. Unconsciously wincing.

ANGLE ON RUSTER  
Footing at the one window.

Open it.

Take one over. Struggles. Looks at Ruster.

James. JMS

Rustle it. RUSTER

Take another the dusty glass with the butt of his pistol.

ANGLE ON RUSTEN  
Eyes glued to Ruster. Dismissing him like a bug.

MOTORIZED ANGLE  
Ruster turns. Catching Ruster's stare. Their eyes hold.

RUSTER (CONT'D)  
"You miss. Back!"

RUSTEN  
This breathing is shallow. I'll bet your pulse is spinning out of control. I'd guess that you were confined to a small space for a good length of time.

Ruster realizes he's been peeped. Turns on Ruster.

RUSTEN  
Tell me something: How much do you charge for a session?

RUSTEN  
I'm sure you know what I mean.

RUSTEN  
And people ever see to be their friend?

RUSTEN  
I help them.

(CONTINUED)

**Michael Douglas' Dialogue  
in *Don't Say a Word***

Of course, the fuller list of movies, actors, directors, and singers who have worked here is huge. It includes many fine Canadian and non-Canadian artists, who made the Distillery District a centrepiece of Hollywood North.



**World of Illusion in Hollywood North: Making snow for *Chicago* & Striking a Harlem set**

As Oscar Night 2008 fades into history, start planning your own Distillery District International Film Festival. Identify films of interest – whether *Road to Avonlea*, *Cinderella Man*, or *Robocop*. Screen them at home. Look for signs of the Distillery. And then tour the site with the songs, dialogue, and special effects still swirling in your head.

Many thanks to Jim White, who coordinated much of the film activity at the Distillery District and shared his knowledge. All the photographs of filming at Gooderham & Worts were by Jim White.

For a more complete list of Oscar-nominated or winning actors and directors who have also shot projects at the Distillery District, go to [Oscar Nominees at the Distillery District](#).

For a fuller list of actors, directors, and individual projects – whether award-winning or not – go to [Hollywood North-Distillery](#).

For more information about actors, directors, or individual projects go to [The Internet Movie Database](#).

Please send your comments or questions to Manager of Heritage Services, Sally Gibson, [sg@thedistillerydistrict.com](mailto:sg@thedistillerydistrict.com).

For more about the history of the Distillery District, visit [www.distilleryheritage.com](http://www.distilleryheritage.com).