

# For independent film crew, village plays multiple role

By Dina Sciortino

Residents of the Andrus on Hudson senior community on Old Broadway in Hastings got their 15 minutes of fame this week, appearing as extras in the independent movie "Silver Tongues," which is filming in various Hastings locations through this Thursday, Dec. 17.

"Silver Tongues," written and directed by Scottish filmmaker Simon Arthur, trails lovers Gerry and Joan on a crazy road trip, during the course of which the two craft multiple personas to meld into each new locale they encounter.

"Silver Tongues is a film about relationships, and the lengths people go to keep them," the film's synopsis says.

The couple, played by Lee Tergesen, who appeared as inmate Tobias Beecher in the television series "Oz," and by Broadway actress Enid Graham, a Tony nominee for her 1998 role in "Honour," soon find their relationship jeopardized by these extreme performances.

The crew was shooting a pivotal scene when the Enterprise visited the set, otherwise known as "the Lounge" at Andrus, on Tuesday. At this point in the story, Gerry and Joan are visiting William (Broadway actor Harvey Evans), who they have duped into believing is their father, at his retirement home.

During the shoot, Andrus residents — some dressed in pajamas, others neatly dressed for the day — sat in the background and/or milled around the room, as they ordinarily might, while the cast and crew ran through a rehearsal of the scene, which shows Gerry sitting next to an elderly woman on the couch, while Joan walks arm in arm with William toward the door.

Arthur was inspired to write the script for "Silver Tongues" after observing a friend whose grandfather moved to a retirement facility. "When his grandfather was in care, their relationship grew closer," Arthur told the Enterprise.

The director said he is pleased to be filming his first full-length feature, which is co-produced by American producers Leda Nornang and Jared Mosche, in the village. "It's just such a beautiful place," Arthur said, also noting his appreciation for the kindness of Village staff that provided the requisite permits.

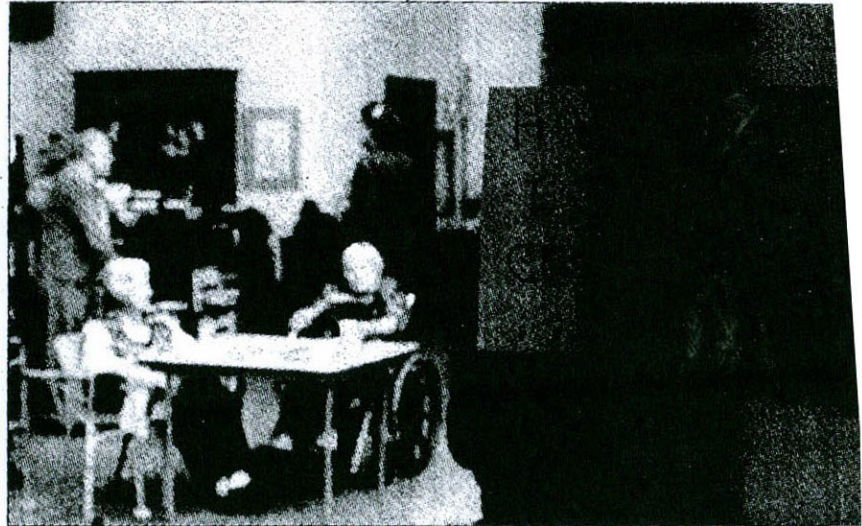
"The residents of Andrus have been fantastic," Mosche said. "It's been really great working here."

Nornang agreed. "There's just been a really friendly and warm feeling here," she said. "We really get the feeling that everyone wanted to work with us on this."

Nornang has found this especially soothing since the cast and crew are working long hours, about 12 a day, on a very modest budget. The production took over the hallway leading to the Lounge, with a table filled with candy, Cheerios, milk, coffee, and other snacks for the cast and crew. Two smaller rooms off to the side were called into service as an office and wardrobe room.

Mosche told the Enterprise that in scouting locations, Hastings won out over Staten Island and Queens since it seems like an "idyllic vision of America. This is how someone from Scotland envisions small-town America. It also didn't feel too suburban." Hastings was on the radar of the production's location manager Ray Mendez since it is in close prox-

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A sign keeps non-essential crew out of a room at Andrus on Hudson.



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Actors Harvey Evans, Enid Graham, and Lee Tergesen

## 'Silver Tongues'

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imity to New York City and has had multiple films shot in the village in the past.

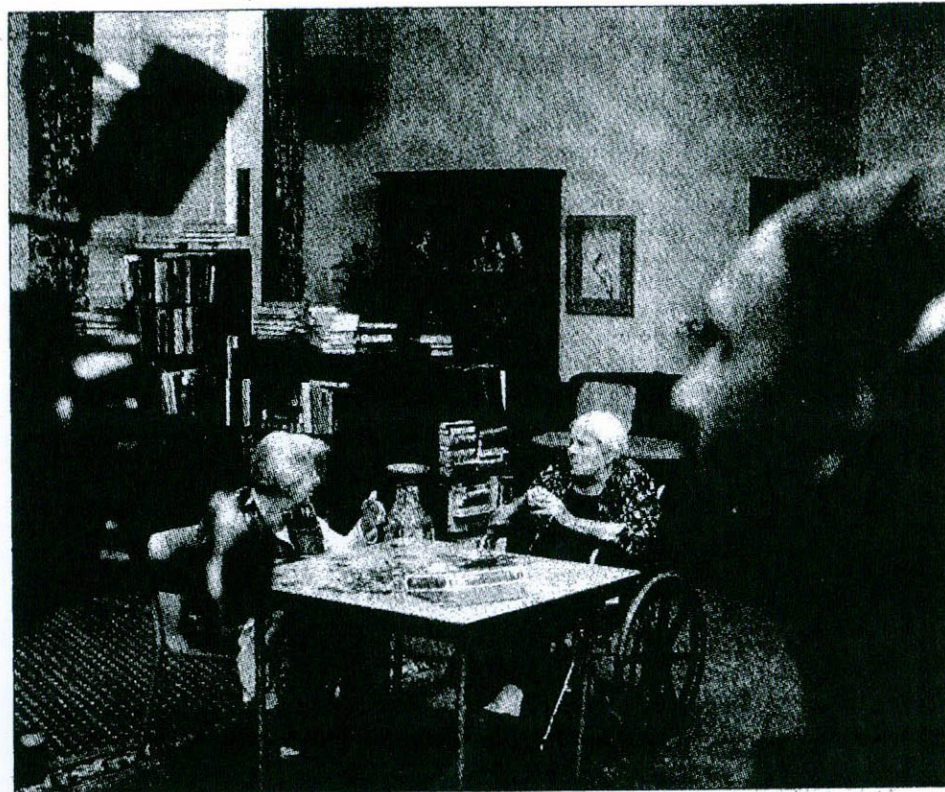
The majority of the filming — which began Dec. 1 and was scheduled to wrap Dec. 19 — will take place in the village. Shooting in Hastings started last Saturday and, in addition to Andrus, went on at Tony's Steak and Seafood restaurant on Warburton Avenue and at Grace Episcopal Church on Main Street.

Nornang said the production crew, operating on a tight budget, has made an effort to shop and buy locally. Tony's has catered some of their meals.

The scenes shot in the restaurant feature characters Alex (Tate Ellington) and Rachel (Emily Meade) sharing a meal. At Grace Church, Joan checks out a private church community where she meets the pastor — played by the stage actress known simply as Portia.

The movie is being filmed using RED digital cameras. "It's great because it's affordable for us, and has great picture quality since it's being shot in high definition," Nornang said.

The co-producers said editing would begin in early January. They hope to enter the film in festivals in 2010.



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Andrus on Hudson residents who were extras chat between takes.