

# TaftMidwayDriller.com

## '25 Hill' utilizes many Taftians

**By Dennis McCall**  
**Taft Midway Driller**

Posted Jun 08, 2010 @ 08:23 AM

Last update Jun 08, 2010 @ 11:03 AM

Taft, Calif. — Cameras began rolling Saturday for a movie about soapbox derby racing that is using more than 100 Taft residents as extras.

One of them is Taft College Supt./Pres. Willy Duncan, who didn't try out for a part in the movie that producer and star Corbin Bernsen hopes will rekindle interest in the famous racing event in Akron, Ohio.

Duncan actually is more than an extra. He's Bernsen's stand-in.

"I brought my daughter down to audition to be an extra and Corbin Bernsen saw me and said, 'hey, you're just perfect for my stand-in.'"

And that's just what the CEO of the local community college does. He stands.

"They have me stand in when they are setting up a scene to get the lighting right," Duncan said. "It's actually fun. I thought, heck, I probably won't ever have an opportunity to do anything like this again, so why not?"

He's taking the week off from his duties at the college.

It's a good time to do that now that the school year is finished.

Duncan was busy serving as a stand-in when shooting began Saturday morning at a home on Parkview Circle.

The scene involved Bernsen — who portrays the fire chief of Taft — and a young boy — played by Nathan Gamble — whose derby dreams are shattered when his soldier father is killed in Afghanistan.

Shooting then moved to Lincoln Junior High, where scenes were shot outdoors at the school's bicycle rack and inside a classroom. Bernsen tapped Duncan to play the role of a teacher.

On Sunday, scenes were shot at the Little League ball field no. 3 where local teams the A's and Giants squared off in a segment that depicted a game that was tied 7-7.

Justina Howell, who took pictures of the players, said they shot two finishes to the game.

"In one the A's won and in the other the Giants won, so we won't know which one will end up in the movie until it comes out," she said.

The movie crew then moved across Cedar Street where scenes were shot depicting families having picnics.

Actors were not used in either scene.

Shooting also will be done on Center Street and on a portion of the old Taft Highway on the north side of 36 Hill.

Bernsen wanted to use as many Taftians as possible because "my mom and other notables came out of Taft. Why not a new generation of talent?"

Bernsen's mother is daytime soap opera actress Jeanne Cooper (The Young and the Restless), who was born and raised in Taft. She was inducted last year into the Taft High Hall of Fame.

Filming is expected to run through Saturday.

Bernsen shot to stardom in 1986 as the divorce attorney in the Emmy-winning drama "L.A. Law," which ran for eight seasons.

He has appeared in a variety of television dramas, such as JAG, Boston Legal, Law and Order/Criminal Intent, NYPD Blue and Third Watch.

He is a regular on "Psych," which airs on the USA Network.

Bernsen arrived Saturday morning to start shooting "25 Hill" after flying down from Vancouver, where "Psych" is filmed.

His movie credits include the "Major League" series with Charlie Sheen.

Others to be featured in "25 Hill" include Bailee Madison, Meg Foster, Ralph Waite, Timothy Omundson, Maureen Flannigan, Michael Tucker and Rolonda Watts.

Copyright 2010 Taft Midway Driller. Some rights reserved

Comments (0)

Login or register to post a comment:

Login

Username:

Password:

Forgot password

Register

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the terms of use

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"



Your connection to Gulf oil spill news.

Become a fan today



Contact us | Privacy Policy | Terms of Service |

Taft Midway Driller | 800 Center St. Taft, CA 93268

Copyright © 2006-2010 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

SEO by eLocalListing | Advertiser profiles | Cherrp Local