

LAWRENCE: AFTER ARABIA



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019



WELCOME AND HAPPY 2019!

Welcome to our first newsletter for Lawrence: After Arabia the forthcoming full-length feature film. Firstly we hope everyone had a good Christmas and are like us looking forward to 2019. It's going to be a busy year. The movie, after much hard work by all, is "now in production". For the last 12 months we have been working in a pre-production phase - planning and budgeting - and getting the various crew and cast on board to begin production. So successful was this approach that in October we completed a "background shoot" of key scenes with actors in France and Dorset. This gave us roughly a quarter of the movie "in the can". It also provided material to make high quality trailers. So far we released two mini-trailers (Young Lawrence and Lawrence in Aqaba) which were loaded to Facebook, IMDB, Twitter and the film website. This culminated in our new long trailer. Feedback has been tremendous so my thanks to cast & crew who worked so hard to make this happen. Finally we have scheduled our next shoot for mid-March which will be studio based. More on this in the next issue.

NT CLOUDS HILL AND CENSORSHIP

Many of you may have heard of the lack of support from the National Trust in being able to film at Clouds Hill. We had gone through the process of organising a shoot in October for a day but at the eleventh hour the custodian and volunteers refused to support the project as they believed (without seeing screenplay and without discussion) that "we were perpetuating conspiracy theories". We saw this as censorship, pure and simple. Given the NT had given permission for zombie movies and wizards and witches this seemed in defensible. We have sought discussions with the NT but have had absolutely no reply from umpteen calls and emails from the Board of Trustees, Director General, Regional Operations Manager or indeed the property. Silence is always a bad way of communication. We continue to push on this and have contingency plans should we not be able to change their mind. We welcome any pressure from NT members or our supporters who could influence the NTs decision.



SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship continues to be our number one priority both from private sponsors and a corporate level. Private sponsorship has been very low key but we do plan a Kick-starter crowd-funding in February 2019. Our focus on corporate sponsorship will now begin. Essentially we have funded Pre-Production and Production. Pre-Production is now complete and came in on budget. Our production "money" has been raised so we know we know we will complete filming. The last stage of film-making is Post-Production which includes editing "sound and vision", making the soundtrack, distribution release and of course marketing - ensuring we launch the film to a wide audience. We do plan to release the movie at a number of film festivals including Cannes, Venice, London (BFI), Berlin and its important we create as much interest in the movie as possible. To complete post-production, at the time of writing, we need to raise just under £28,000. We believe this is achievable. And of course if you would like to sponsor the movie (no matter how big or small an amount) or if you know of someone or a company that might sponsor us please visit our website or email markjtgriffin@gmail.com. My thanks to all who have supported us so far.



CASTING

Early in November we were proud to get the support of renowned Scottish actor Brian Cox (Churchill, X-Men, Bourne Trilogy, Reds etc.) who agreed to play Epilogue. Brian's wife Nicole Ansari who played Sarah Lawrence (and was brilliant!) was very supportive. Simon Lawrence (Director of Photography) and I went to London to record the voice over with Brian. In terms of other roles we aim to cast the roles of Lord Allenby and George Brough by the end of March and aim to cast "named" actors for these roles. We are currently talking with a number of actors and will casting once they have been agreed. As a note you can see the whole cast and crew for the movie on our website www.lawrenceafterarabia.co.uk or look up Lawrence After Arabia on imdb.com.

EXTRAS!

There are now only a handful of lead/speaking roles to cast but we have two scenes the re-enactment of the "The Inquest" and "The Funeral" which will need probably 70 extras over both weekends. The two scenes will be filmed over weekends - the first in May 18th-19th which will be filmed at Herrison Hall in Charlton Down near Dorchester then June 15th-16th in Moreton. Anyone who is interested in appearing as an Extra should email me markjtgriffin@gmail.com now! We will of course give priority to our sponsors. Please get your emails in as soon as possible so we can get numbers!



THE CREW

While the cast of any film tends to get more exposure I wanted to give a special thank you to my core crew who work so hard to produce the movie. They are Kirsten Sare - Hair and Makeup, Jenny Veale - Costume and Simon Lawrence who as Director of Photography is also working on the final edits of each scene. They each work to bring the best we can to the screen while when needed doubling up on boom operator, lighting, assistant director or indeed anything that "needs to be done" on the day. Pictured at Kingston Courtyard Hotel at the end of a long Sunday shoot back in October last year are from left to right Becky Buley (seated - Costume Assistant), Jennie Veale (Costume Supervisor), Tom Barber Duffy (playing T.E. Lawrence), Celia Muir (kneeling - playing Florence Hardy), Mark J.T. Griffin (Director/Producer), Kirsten Sare (Hair & Makeup), Simon Lawrence (Director of Photography), Ingrid Gruppung (Producer) and Jack Lawrence (Sound). Behind the camera is Jan Lawrence (Continuity/Production Assistant).

AND FINALLY... one of the other ways of supporting the movie (other than as a sponsor!) is to simply visit our website and our Facebook Page (Lawrence After Arabia) and our IMDB Page (Lawrence After Arabia). Visiting those sites regularly not only keeps you in the loop with news but increases the "hits" & increases it position on search. This helps to get the word out to a wider audience. Thanks!

CONTACTS

Gryffyn Productions
34, Hailes Street, Winchcombe GL54 5HU, UK
Email: info@lawrencethemovie.com
Website: www.lawrenceafterarabia.co.uk

