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Welcome to Tinseltown

By: JOHN HUNNEMAN - Staff Writer

You ought to be in pictures and just maybe, next month, you will be.

Auditions are being scheduled for an independent film with homegrown roots.

"April Moon" is a romantic drama set to begin filming in November in Southwest County.

Written and directed by Murrieta resident David Asmussen, the story line goes something like this: "April is blind but fiercely independent. She is a gifted teacher and sculptor with a psychological wall that keeps others at a safe distance. Then she meets David ..."

Asmussen began his stage career at age 8 and by 21 had founded a theater company in El Paso, Texas. At 25, he headed for Hollywood.

"I came out here to jump from the stage to film," he said.

He got an acting coach, joined the Screen Actors Guild and landed a few small parts.

"But I got tired of auditioning and decided I was going to start writing my own stuff," Asmussen said.

Although he'd written for his theater company, creating screenplays was a different thing all together.

"There was a strong learning curve," he said.

Asmussen, 43, and his family lived in L.A. until three years ago. He kept his job there because the company he was with had a lot of connections in show business, but none of them ever worked out for him.

Asmussen took a job as a technology and communications manager for The Garrett Group, a Temecula-based land and real estate investment management company, and moved to Southwest County. If his dream of making it in Hollywood wasn't finished, it appeared to be on life support.

Then he met Jo Moulton.

The Garrett Group is a sponsor of the Temecula Valley International Film & Music Festival, which Moulton founded and continues to run.

Long story short, with the contacts made through Moulton and the local festival, filming on April Moon is set to begin Nov. 6.

"If it wasn't for Jo, none of this would be happening," Asmussen said.

Though major casting will be done in Los Angeles, auditions for 15 minor speaking rolls and about 50 extras will be held, by appointment, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 21-22 at the Fine Arts Network office located in the Windsor Park office center, 43180 Business Park Drive, Suite 105, Temecula.

Here are just some of the parts available in the movie:

Andrew, 25-35: Cocky, thinks he's a lady's man; Bryan, 30-40: Art gallery owner, snooty but friendly; Derek, 30-35: Married slime who picks up a girl in a bar ...

I know, I know. It's as if these characters were ripped right from the crowd at a Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer, but Asmussen assured me he started writing the screenplay about eight years ago.

Log on to www.aprilmoonproductions.com to find out more about the project and the other rolls available. To schedule an audition, call 699-5514.

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