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Civil War movie filming at Fort Buenaventura

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Story Images



OGDEN -- Fort Buenaventura will stand in for Virginia this weekend, and the Weber River will play the River Styx.

The park will be a filming site for "Blood Fare," a movie by J.A. Steel ("Denizen," "Salvation") and featuring actor Gil Gerard ("Buck Rogers in the 25th Century").

"We filmed a lot of death scenes last weekend, with actors riding across the river in death gear, standing up in a canoe dressed up like a death barge," said Steel, who runs her film company, Warrior Entertainment, from offices in Herriman.



"Nobody went overboard, so it was a good shoot."

Steel wanted to do a film with a Civil War theme to mark the war's 150th anniversary.

The ancient Greek legend of the ferryman on the River Styx has also intrigued her. The ferryman was said to escort the newly dead, by boat, from the living world to an underworld afterlife.

But passengers who did not have the fare to pay for the trip were deposited back on the shore, to spend eternity as lost spirits wandering the world of the living.

"I thought about a Civil War skirmish and what would happen if someone who died couldn't afford the fare," Steel said.

When finished, "Blood Fare" will be about a Civil War ghost, Cpl. Henry Trout, killed in a forgotten skirmish after the first Battle of Bull Run.

A century and a half later, Trout comes face to face with his descendants as the battle continues on a haunted battlefield.

Trout's fifth-generation grandchildren, Tyler (actress Brandi Lynn Anderson) and her brother Chad, will challenge the ferryman as the line between the living and dead becomes blurred.

Gerard will play Meade, a professor and mentor to Tyler. Gerard's scenes have been shot mostly at the University of Utah in Salt Lake



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City.

Also playing a key role in the plot is a park attendant played by Michelle Wolff ("Dante's Cove").

The shoot moves to the real state of Virginia next, Steel said. The film has not yet settled on a distributor, but Steel predicts it will be released next summer.

Steel moved from Los Angeles to Utah about six years ago.

"I got tired. The bright lights of Hollywood are really cool, but at the same time, everybody talks a good game and very few people actually make feature films that get distributed," she said.

"I came here, where it is peaceful and quiet, and I get a lot of work done. It's a nice, friendly place, and if I have a problem or question, it's easy to deal with government officials. There's not as much red tape."

Utah actors play most of the roles, and the crew is from Utah, Steel said. Makeup is by Chris Hanson, a Salt Lake City artist whose credits include "Hellboy," "Men in Black," "The Green Mile" and "The X-Files."

The Utah Film Commission suggested Fort Buenaventura as a visual double for Virginia.

"It's kind of funny to have Fort Buenaventura in the middle of Ogden, looking so much like the East," Steel said. "But it's nice to finish a shoot and drive home instead of heading for the airport."

Shooting is set for about 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the fort.

Steel said park visitors were considerate of shooting last weekend and enjoyed watching scenes from a distance.

Those interested in learning more about the film can visit Steel's website, www.warriorentertainment.com.

[Click here](#) to watch the trailer for "Blood Fare."

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