

glass house," she notes. Much of Washington has "a real European feel," not surprising since the city was "planned by Pierre L'Enfant," Palmer reminds us.

Syriana shot Washington's "icons" and captured the urban look of "up-and-coming" neighborhood Shaw, she reports. The British-financed *The Walker*, the sequel to *American Gigolo 2*, filmed on Embassy Row and downtown. The latest remake of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig lensed all around town.

It's no secret that the nation's capital is "in search of the next *West Wing*," says Palmer. "That show really put us on the map in the seven years they filmed here." *The West Wing* contingent gave back to Washington, too. Creator "Aaron Sorkin wrote some PSAs after 9/11 to get tourism back to Washington," Palmer recalls. "And they sponsored a screen-writing competition for us for five years."

Enhanced security throughout the District has not discouraged filmmakers. "It has caused them to reconfigure their shots," Palmer concedes. "They've scaled down and only bring in what's absolutely necessary for the shot." Obtaining permits from the National Park Service for shooting at the monuments,



Crew on location in New Hampshire

on the Mall and in parkland is a smooth process. "There are so many special events shooting; it's just a matter of coordination," she says.

In addition to features and TV programming Washington also hosts documentaries - "probably our bread and butter," Palmer reports - and productions for numerous trade associations and government entities.

Tiny Delaware is big on locations

The revitalized **Delaware Film Office** is "committed to establishing The

First State as a filming destination," says PR Specialist Nikki Boone, and the state which is small in acreage but big in locations is already seeing "a lot more filming than ever before."

One of Delaware's biggest assets is that the entire length of the state can be traveled in two hours, Boone notes. "We offer everything from shoreline and historic locations to charming small towns and bustling cities." While filmmaker Bill Page is a Delaware native one of the reasons he chose to shoot his indie feature *All Along* in his home state was that he required a multitude of locations within a short distance. Page filmed scenes at Kahunaville's huge outdoor concert stage in Wilmington, Blue Diamond Park amusement park in New Castle, Baynard Stadium, and the small fishing village of Bowers Beach.

The comedy *Failure To Launch* shot its surf scene at Cape Henlopen State Park. "They could have shot at resorts in Maryland or New Jersey but found Cape Henlopen less crowded while still accessible to New York City and Philadelphia," Boone reports. Seeking an urban landscape independent feature *Jack of Clubs* filmed in Wilmington in July.

continued next page

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Great Locations

A PBS documentary on Alexander Hamilton made extensive use of Historic New Castle; its cobblestone streets and colonial homes doubled for 18th century Philadelphia. The History Channel doc series *States* shot in the state capital of Dover last summer.

Boone is eager to let filmmakers in on locations which could be considered Delaware's best-kept secrets, too. "I don't know if anyone has ever shot at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island," she says. "It's a unique historic attraction."

Now under renovation, the state-owned fort dates from the early 19th century and served as a prison for Confederate soldiers following Gettysburg. Its dark, mysterious atmosphere has made it the perfect choice for Haunted Halloween tours in recent years.

Back at the shore, Cape Henlopen State Park is the site of World War II-era bunkers and towers. Delaware also boasts a number of lighthouses, including Breakwater Light off Cape Henlopen which is still in operation.

One-stop shopping in New Hampshire

New Hampshire's ability to pack a lot of diversity into a small state gives it the reputation of a "one-stop shop," notes Film Specialist Matthew Newton of the **New Hampshire Film & Television Office**. "We've got everything in very close proximity. Come to the center of the state and draw a circle and within 20 minutes you have mountains to the north, lakes to the east, the seacoast to the south – we're proud of our 18 miles of coastline – and farmland to the west."

The state is seeing increasing numbers of independent features and "more and more producers are relocating to New Hampshire," he reports. "We believe a lot has to do with the quality of life. They like this terrain and how representative of New England New Hampshire is."

Since *On Golden Pond* was shot in the state producers have tended to "look at our lakes as our sole location," Newton points out. So the Film & Television Office, which Newton admits has been "an on-again, off-again thing," is reorganizing and revealing New Hampshire's other draws. "We'd like to push people north towards the mountains. The White Mountains National Forest is a wonderful resource that's been under-utilized by films."

Former *Seinfeld* writers Andy Robin and Gregg Kavet chose Claremont, "a quiet community with a Main Street feel" bordering Vermont as the primary location for their indie comedy *Live Free Or Die*, New Hampshire's state motto. "It's winning awards on the film-festival circuit," Newton reports. "Andy and Gregg loved Claremont so much that when they needed some pick-up shots they came back." New Hampshire-based Either/Or Productions selected Peterborough for *The Sensation of Sight*, a drama starring David Strathairn which is also garnering attention at festivals.

On the TV front New Hampshire has hosted a number of reality-themed programs, including The Discovery Channel's *Biker Build Off* which visited Laconia's annual motorcycle rally which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area. "They shot on the road through Franconia Notch which showed off New Hampshire quite nicely," says Newton. HGTV's *Generation Renovation* shot in the state and other home-and-garden style shows "are looking at different locations up north." The History Channel's *States* documentary series spent a few weeks shooting in the state last summer and seeking archival footage. ■



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