

THE ROGUE WILD

# River has served as backdrop for many stars of Hollywood

By Jim Moore  
of the Daily Courier

Movies and the Rogue River are a natural match and many local residents have exciting memories of when movie stars were in the area shooting on location. Nobody's recollections can top those of Trevor Yarrish, however.

Yarrish, who lives in Grants Pass, was 9 in 1988 when he



YARRISH

landed a major part as the son of Dan Haggerty's character in "Spirit of the Eagle."

Haggerty was well-known to Yarrish, and to everyone across the nation, for his role as Grizzly Adams on television. Yarrish was a budding child actor who was appearing in local productions at the time and word was out that the film company wanted to cast some locals, particularly as Haggerty's son.

"Like just about every other kid in Southern Oregon, I submitted a resume and head shot," Yarrish said. Neither he nor his family heard anything for a while so he thought he had missed out.

And he would have had it not been for Daily Courier photographer Tim Bullard.

Bullard stopped by the movie set on assignment just as movie officials were considering turning to Hollywood to fill the role of the son because they hadn't found the right person.

"They had said they wanted somebody local, but they weren't satisfied with what they had," Bullard said. "I had seen Trevor in a play a couple days earlier and mentioned him to them."

Once Bullard had the film crew's attention, he had to track down the family, which didn't have a telephone.

"He went out of his way to get hold of my mom," said Yarrish, who wound up getting a one-on-one screening with Haggerty and nabbing the role.

"It was an experience that you wish every kid would get the opportunity to do," Yarrish said. "I was treated like a star."

That star treatment included his own trailer on location, an ice chest filled with his personal treats and Monte Cristo sandwiches for lunch. In addition, Yarrish turned 10 during filming and the crew tossed him a birthday party.

"Spirit of the Eagle" was released in 1991 and it includes scenes of eagles that had been trained by the late Dave Sidon of Wildlife Images.

Yarrish was also in line to perform in another Haggerty film, "Grizzly Mountain," that was filmed locally and released in 1997.

However, before filming Haggerty was in a motorcycle crash that nearly cost him his life and stalled his career for about four years.

By the time Haggerty was able to shoot, Yarrish had outgrown the part.

Yarrish, 34, now is a partner in Define Your Edge, a company that develops brand strategy and web applications.



Actress Meryl Streep received a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild best actress nomination for her work on "The River Wild," a 1994 movie that featured several scenes shot on the Rogue River.



'Rooster Cogburn' was a 1975 movie shot locally that starred John Wayne and Katharine Hepburn.



"The Spirit of the Eagle," starring Dan Haggerty, was filmed here in 1991.

The Rogue River also has served as a backdrop for some of Hollywood's most recognizable stars, including Meryl Streep, John Wayne, Katharine Hepburn, Johnny Depp, Kevin Bacon and more.

Streep has more nominations in the history of both the

Academy Awards and Golden Globes. Two of her nominations for best actress — one for a Golden Globe and the other by the Screen Actors Guild — were for her performance in "The River Wild," which features multiple scenes shot in the canyons of the Rogue River.

Kevin Bacon co-starred in the film, which was released in 1994, and he garnered a Golden Globe nomination for best supporting actor.

Two decades earlier, the Rogue was also featured in "Rooster Cogburn," the movie that many consider the biggest hit filmed locally.

Megastars John Wayne and Katharine Hepburn took a traumatic trip through the rapids of Hellgate Canyon in the 1975 film.

The two stars spent several days on the river and local guides ferried them up and downstream. Most of the filming was done near the Hog Creek Landing.

"Dead Man" starred Johnny Depp as an Old West accountant on the run. It was released in 1995 and filming featured the Rogue River as well as forest scenes.

The Oregon Governor's Office of Film and Television lists a movie titled "Hell and High Water," filmed in Rogue River in 1981.

Another film shot last year in parts of Grants Pass, Cave Junction and in the Illinois Valley is called "Redwood Highway" and stars Tom Skerritt and Shirley Knight. It's scheduled for release this coming summer. It's unclear how much, if any, footage there is of the Rogue River.

Several other films have taken advantage of the beauty of the Rogue River. Information about them is available at the Josephine County Historical Society, 541-479-7827.

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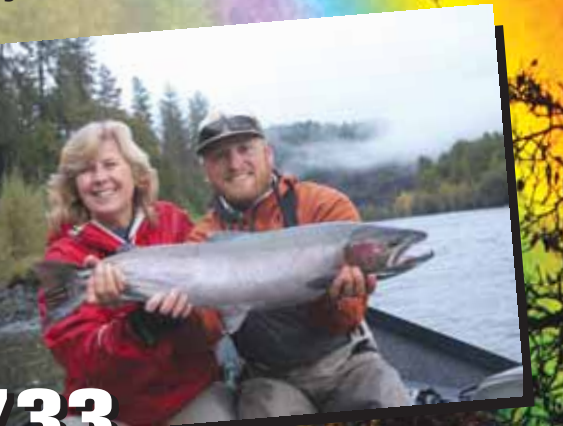
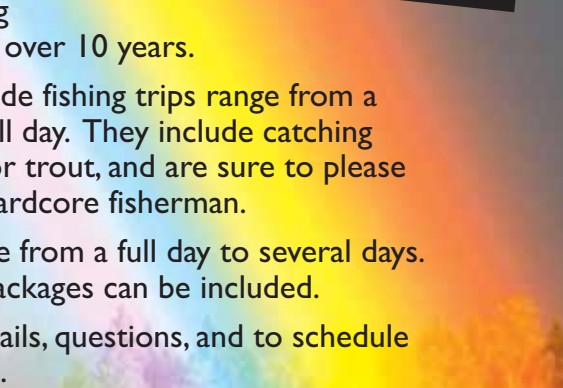
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