

St. Charles stars in Noble Fool video

By JOHN PUTERBAUGH
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Actors in Noble Fool Theatricals' "Red Herring" got the chance to live their roles in a totally new way last week.

Opening next month at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, the show calls for the use of film throughout to aid in the shifting of scenes and settings. So on a hot, humid night last week, several actors and others involved with the show took to the streets of downtown St. Charles to create the film, which also will serve as a film trailer of sorts for the show.

John Gawlick, Noble Fool's artistic director,

describes "Red Herring" as a "film noir romantic comedy" that asks how far one would go for love. It takes place in 1982 and tells the story of two FBI agents on the hunt for a Russian spy and also trying to get married.

The scenes take place in all sorts of settings — one even being set on a Navy ship in the Pacific Ocean. The film will be used to help transition from scene to scene by showing establishing shots, Gawlick said.

"So it kind of brings up the past and that whole era of trenchcoats and fedoras and spies and that kind of old movie," Gawlick said.

The architecture of downtown St. Charles lent itself perfectly to the task, Gawlick

If you go

WHAT: "Red Herring" by Noble Fool Theatricals

WHEN: Sept. 2-Oct. 24; showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, with 8 p.m. Thursday performances on Sept. 2, Sept. 9, Sept. 16, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7

WHERE: Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles

COST: \$29-\$39

INFORMATION: www.noblefool.org

said. The Municipal Building, the bridge, Hotel Baker and the Arcadia Theatre all provided a great feel to the film, he said.

"At night, in black and white, you can't tell that those buildings are modern,"

Gawlick said. "It looks really great ... like you're right back in time."

The first time he's done anything like this to go with an actual theater performance, Gawlick said it was quite interesting leaving the theater for the streets.

The challenges that went along with it included traffic, people stopping to ask what they were doing and the heat.

Sean Bolger, who plays an FBI agent in the show, said the challenges were definitely worth it. Bolger had never done anything like this, either, but had a great time.

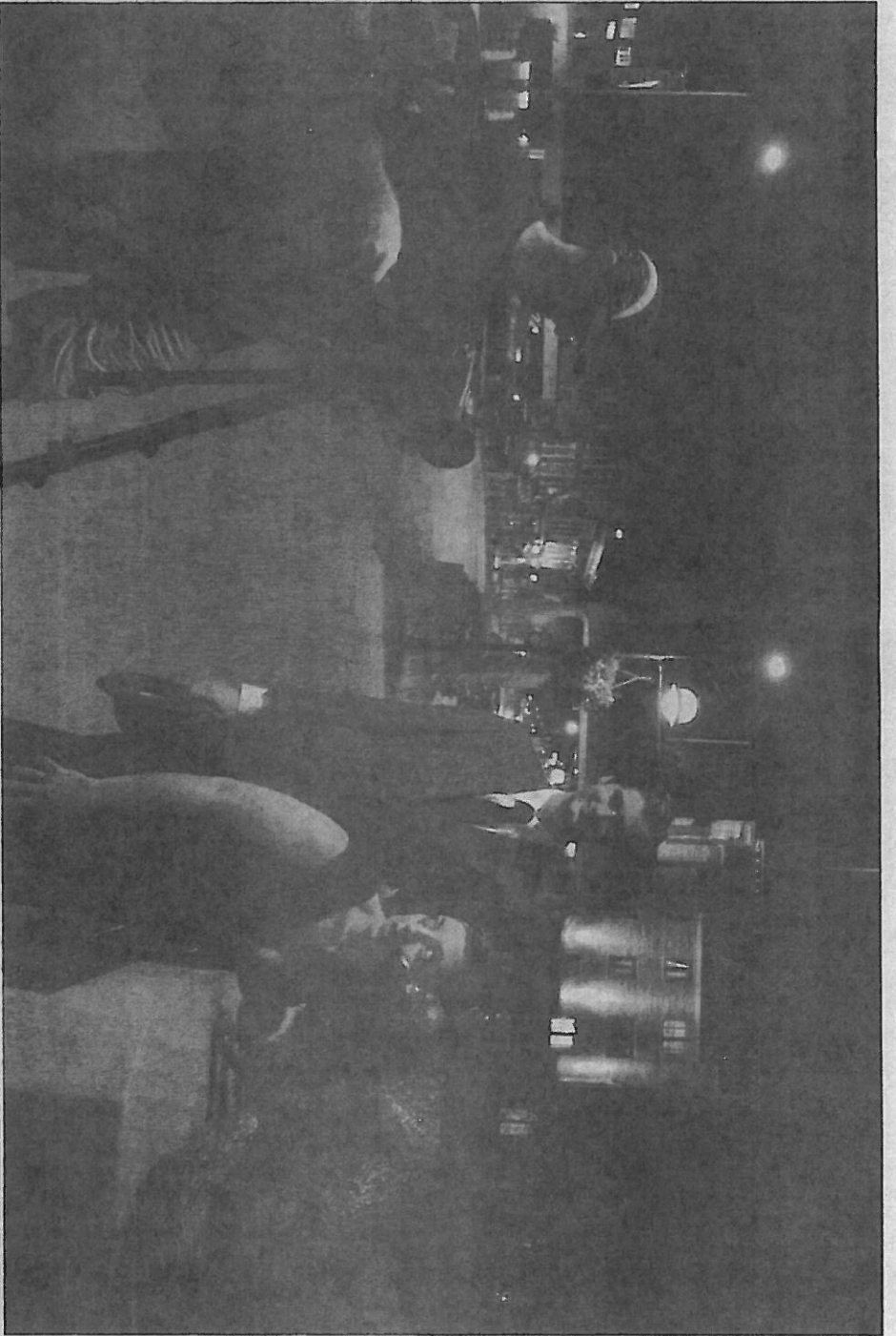
"It was pretty fun, just because people were curious as to what we were doing," Bolger said. "It gave us an opportunity to interact with

the people, and it was fun to see peoples' reactions."

It also added another element of training for the actors involved. For a group of actors who'll spend the next 10 weeks together, Bolger said it was a great way to get to know each other in a setting outside of a more formal rehearsal or performance.

And it made their roles feel real, he said.

"On a dark and humid evening, being down there surrounded by all these buildings ... I mean, it felt like what we were doing was what we were doing," Bolger said. It wasn't like acting; it felt real "because it was dark and the environment down there, it really did feel like it would in that time."



Alana Ernst (right) and Alex Hugh Brown (center), actors in Noble Fool Theatricals' "Red Herring," are shown being filmed by Liviu Pasare (left) on the Fox River Bridge in downtown St. Charles last Thursday for a video that will be used in the show. Hotel Baker can be seen in the background.

Photo provided by Kimberly S. Morris

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Acting in the streets

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