



Welcome to Brandella Films!

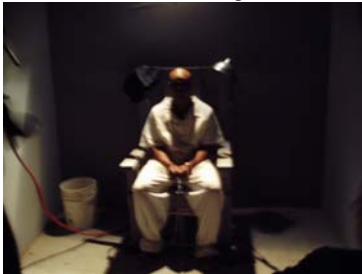
About Us

Brandella Films LLC was formed by local freelancer and screenwriter Jim Idema in the spring of 2008 in response to Hollywood's apparent lack of interest in the talent West Michigan has to offer. Within our ranks we have experienced screenwriters, crew members and even access to talent that we believe will tell stories that rival anything Hollywood puts out; and because we're in Michigan, there's a chance it will be for a fraction of the price. Because we're also an indy, we're not bogged down by Hollywood politics, giving us the creative freedom to make films people actually want to see.

Fact Sheet

- Spring of 2008 – Brandella Films, LLC was formed
- Spring of 2008 – Brandella Films began pre-production on its first project, a short film entitled “Respect for the Dead”
- June, 2008 – Brandella Films holds auditions for “Respect for the Dead” at Schuler’s Books and Music in Walker, MI. Over 70 potential actors show up to audition
- July, 2008 – Brandella Films goes into production on “Respect for the Dead”
- August, 2008 – “Respect for the Dead” wrapped primary photography
- December, 2008 – Finished post production on “Respect for the Dead”
- January/February, 2009 – Began submissions of “Respect for the Dead” to film festivals
- March, 2009 – Began development of our first feature film, “A Daughter’s Hope”
- May, 2009 – “Respect for the Dead” accepted to Muskegon Film Festival

Production stills from “Respect for the Dead”



Brandella Films and the West Michigan film community

While the film industry has been in West Michigan for quite some time, it most recently received a shot in the arm by Governor Granholm's signing of what is deemed the most progressive incentive package in the country. Unfortunately for the smaller independents, the incentives are useless, forcing us to dig deep into our own pockets or depend on the community at large for funding our projects. These incentives DID give the indy filmmaker a roadmap for future success, however, by providing them with the supportive environment at the state level they didn't have before (however limited this support may be). West Michigan has always been supportive thanks to groups like the West Michigan Film and Video Alliance (WMFVA).

Advertising and Interviews

If you are interested in advertising with us, please use the below contact information and someone will get back with you as soon as possible.

Should you have an interest in interviewing us or the cast/crew of our current project, again, please use the below contact information and we'll work it out for you.

Contact Information

To contact us, please feel free to drop us an email note at info@brandellafilms.com. If you prefer someone with a pulse, feel free to call us at 616-635-8849. If snail mail is your thing, here's the address:

Brandella Films, LLC
PO Box 182
Belmont, MI 49306

Of course the best way to keep up with us is to visit us at www.brandellafilms.com. Drop in any time!

Script Submissions

For script submissions, please send an email query to info@brandellafilms.com and include "Script Submission Query" in the subject line. If we like your idea we'll ask for the script.

Thanks again for visiting Brandella Films!

Press Releases

“RESPECT FOR THE DEAD”

-- **Local Film Company Wraps Shooting on First Project** – ‘Respect for the Dead,’ Grand Rapids, Mich. – After a shooting schedule spanning two weeks and a number of locations, Brandella Films’ first project, a short film entitled “Respect for the Dead,” is “in the can.”

Filming began on July 25 at the Kent County Courthouse, where **Judge Benjamin Logan** lent his courtroom and gavel expertise, plus handcuffs and shackles for the lead actor, LC Clark.

That day in the courtroom a request for shackles to be loosened was granted.

Shooting continued at beach locations in Muskegon and Whitehall and wrapped on Saturday, August 9, at the crew’s handmade prison set.

A coffin was lowered, tears were shed ... and it all ended in an execution.

The film’s footage is now in the hands of its editor, Muskegon-based Ross Morgan, who is also composing its original score.

Actors are now available for interviews. The local producers look ahead to film festivals and look forward to announcing the premiere, the DVD release and future feature-length projects.

For more information, contact Jim Idema at 616-635-8849 or Rebekah Fuller at 616-856-1883, or e-mail info@brandellafilms.com.

Visit www.brandellafilms.com.

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-- **Brandella Films Announces Cast for ‘Respect for the Dead’**

Grand Rapids, Mich. – Newly formed local film production company Brandella Films announced today the cast for its first project, the short film “Respect for the Dead.”

Heading up the cast as “Wendell Colgate,” a man condemned to death for murders he felt forced to commit, is first-time actor and part-time musician Frederick Cranford, a proud grandfather and full-time student in criminal justice and social work. Playing Cranford’s onscreen wife is Andres Murrell, who debuted on the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre stage in “The Piano Lesson.” She feels “blessed” with her current acting

opportunity. “I look forward to making it the best film debut possible with Brandella Films.”

Portraying Rafferty the prison Guard is local Muskegon actor with independent film experience, Russell Moore, a family man with two children. Moore has a degree in graphic design and is currently working on one in computer network technology.

Community theater and film veterans Ray C. Cook, Jack Rutledge and Bob McFarlane also join the cast as Warden Hill, the Priest, and the Barber respectively. Rounding out the primary cast are Khalil Childrey, Jeffrey Adams, Alan Myers Jr., Ross Morgan, George Naughton, Rebekah Fuller and Paul DeGennero. Many others were selected to participate as extras. Muskegon-based Morgan will also write the score.

“We were simply amazed by the talent West Michigan has to offer,” says writer, producer and director Jim Idema. “Because of that, we found a very talented group of people, and I think it’s going to be a great film.”

Brandella Films conducted auditions at Schuler Books & Music on June 13 and 14. More than 70 actors participated in the two-day auditions.

Brandella Films is based in Grand Rapids and expects to begin shooting July 14.

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-- Brand New Film Production Company to Hold Auditions for First Project

Grand Rapids, Mich. – New West Michigan film production company Brandella Films is holding open auditions for its first project. On Friday, June 13, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, June 14, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Schuler Books and Music on Alpine, anyone interested will have the opportunity to be in the short film entitled “Respect for the Dead,” about a man on death row whose last hope of getting his story and message to the world is a seemingly imaginary newspaper reporter.

Experience is not necessary but welcomed. Submittal of a headshot and resume before auditions is encouraged but not required. Auditions are open to the public. Casting director, director/screenwriter and producers are offering local talent an avenue for film exposure.

Brandella Films is currently seeking to fill the following roles:

- Average-sized black man in his 40’s
- 20-ish black woman
- Burly prison guard
- Two large muscle-bound males in their late teens or early 20’s
- Older males to play a barber, a priest and the heavily-padded warden
- Males to play cemetery workers
- Short, squat, balding man
- Attractive woman in her 20’s
- Well-toned men in their 20’s to play lifeguards
- Black tween boy
- Three men to play police officers
- Various extras

For further audition information, contact Rebekah Fuller at (616) 856-1883 or rebekah123081@yahoo.com.

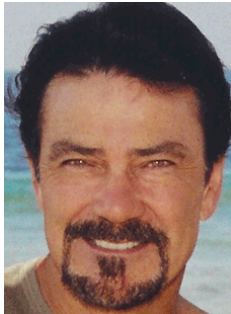
For more information about Brandella Films, contact Jim Idema at (616) 635-8849 or Identcc@comcast.net.

“A DAUGHTER’S HOPE”

24 March 2009

Film, TV star and domestic violence champion signs Letter of Interest for new Michigan film

Grand Rapids, Mich. – Victor Rivers, veteran actor of film, stage and television and spokesman for the National Network to End Domestic Violence, has signed a Letter of Interest to participate in the production of *A Daughter’s Hope*, a television feature currently in development by local production company Brandella Films.



Victor Rivers

Rivers is best known for his roles in such films as *Blood In/Blood Out*, *The Mask of Zorro*, *The Lost City*, *The Distinguished Gentleman* (starring Eddie Murphy) and *The Air I Breathe*. He has also appeared in numerous roles on such television series’ as *Numb3rs*, *CSI: Miami*, *JAG* and *Miami Vice*. Rivers can currently be seen as Jack Reese on NBC’s acclaimed series *Life*. In recent years, Rivers has chosen to lend his voice and his story as a witness and domestic abuse survivor to the **National Network to End Domestic Violence**, an alliance of shelters and statewide advocacy groups around the country. He has also penned a memoir of his childhood experiences entitled *A Private Family Matter* (Atria Books, 2005). Rivers recently appeared on *Larry King Live* with other domestic violence survivors.

“We’re really excited about having Mr. Rivers join this wonderful project,” said co-writer, director and producer Jim Idema. “Not only is his talent unparalleled, but his campaign to end domestic violence is one we applaud and embrace wholeheartedly.”

A Daughter’s Hope is the fictional telling of the true life events of Owosso, MI resident Christine Hill as she struggles to overcome an extraordinarily difficult life, the most painful part of which was the unexplained disappearance of her mother from the Florida Keys in 1981. While the case is still unresolved, this particular story focuses on Ms. Hill

as she fights with setback after setback, only to become a stronger wife and mother to her own family. Ms. Hill is also the co-writer of the script.

Brandella Films, based in Grand Rapids, produced their first project in 2008; a short entitled *Respect for the Dead*, which has currently been submitted to several local and national film festivals. They hope to begin shooting on *A Daughter's Hope* sometime in 2009.

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“Respect for the Dead” Muskegon Film Festival acceptance.

12 May 2009

Local film accepted to Muskegon Film Festival

Grand Rapids, Mich. – Grand Rapids-based Brandella Films announced today that its short film, “Respect for the Dead,” has been accepted into the Muskegon Film Festival held May 30-31 at the Harbor Theater in Muskegon, MI.

The film is the story of a man on death row who ponders his upcoming execution and the circumstances that landed him there with a seemingly imaginary newspaper reporter. This is Brandella Films’ first project, shot entirely in West Michigan using West Michigan talent and crew.

“We’re honored to have been accepted into this wonderful film festival,” said writer, director and producer Jim Idema. “We believe that a Michigan film shown at a Michigan film festival says a lot about the state of the industry here, and we feel privileged to be a part of it.”

The Muskegon Film Festival, formerly held in February and now entering its eighth year, moved its festival to Harbor Theater this year from the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts. Additional information on the festival can be found at www.muskegonfilmfestival.com.

Brandella Films, based in Grand Rapids, formed in the spring of 2008 and is based in NE Grand Rapids. They are currently developing their next project, a feature entitled, “A Daughter’s Hope.” More information on Brandella Films can be found at www.brandellafilms.com.

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