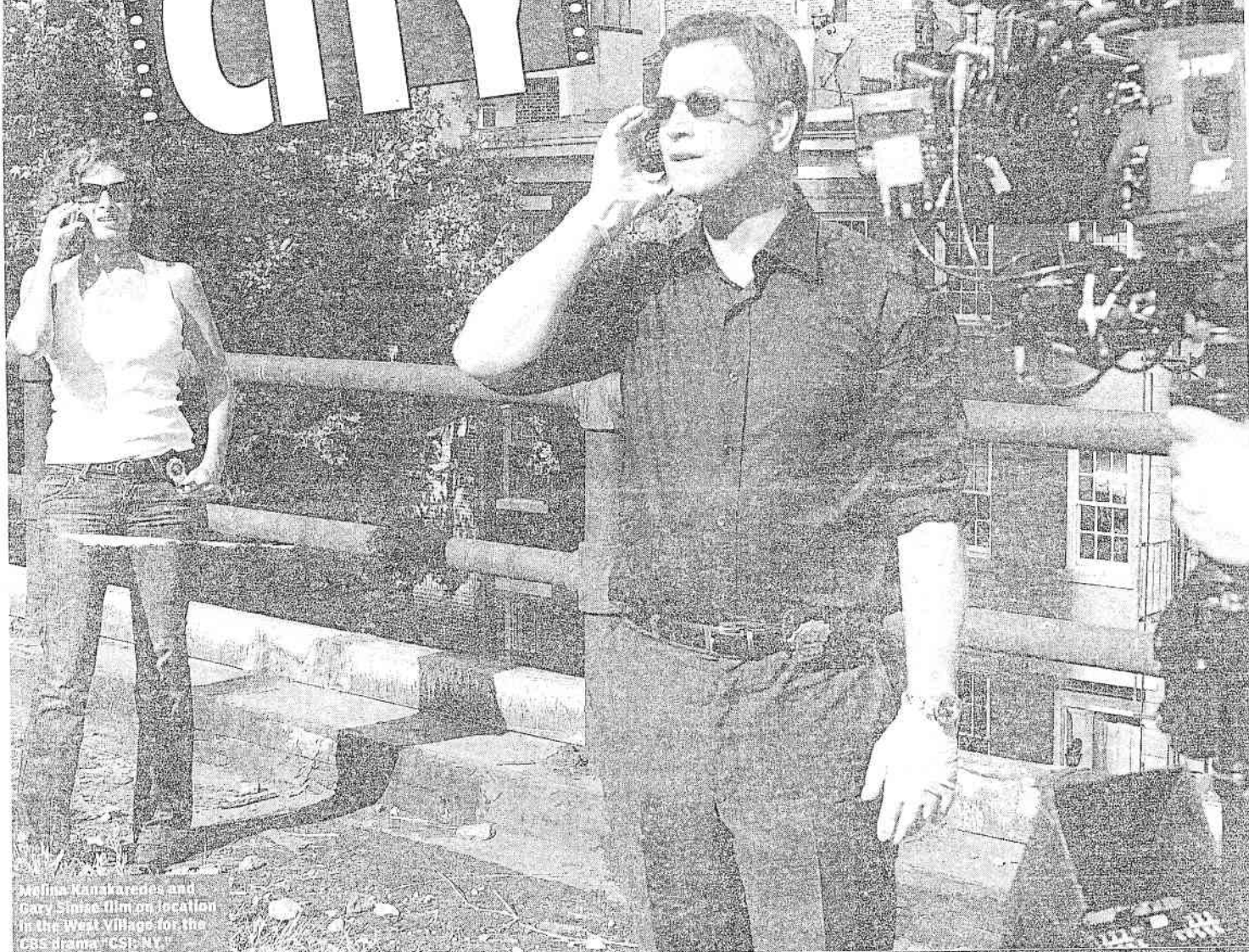


SETS and the CITY

DAILY
NEWS
AUGUST 17, 2008

NOW



Melina Kanakaredes and
Gary Sinise film on location
in the West Village for the
CBS drama "CSI: NY."

Behind the scenes at New York-made movies and TV shows



FUNNY 'BUNNY'

ANNA FARIS
IS ALL EARS
IN HER
LATEST
COMEDY

MOVIES - PAGE 2



VA-VA- VROOM!

MODEL NATALIE
MARTINEZ
REVS IT UP IN
'DEATH RACE'
REMAKE

MOVIES - PAGE 5



'IDOL' WORSHIP

20 WAYS
TO WOW
'AMERICAN
'IDOL'
JUDGES

EVENTS - PAGE 6

NYC location shoots aim to

New York may be known as Fun City, the Big Apple and the city that never sleeps, but it could soon have a new nickname — Hollywood East. Over the past few years, there's been a steady increase in the number of films and TV shows shooting each year in the city, thanks in large part to a tax credit for production companies. This fall, 15 prime-time series will be based here — including "Ugly Betty," which recently moved its production from Los Angeles. Here's a behind-the-scenes look at some of the movies and shows shooting around town.

'CITY ISLAND'

keep it reel

Set & shot in Bronx seaside enclave, Garcia film finds isle is shore perfect

If Norman Rockwell were to paint an idyllic scene depicting a movie set, it might look like the location shoot for "City Island," a new movie starring Andy Garcia of "Ocean's Thirteen" and Julianna Margulies of "ER."

Locals stand across the street and lean against a white picket fence while the cast and crew film a scene with three characters all quietly sneaking a smoke.

Little children in an alleyway by the kitchen door are gleefully filling balloons with helium for an upcoming party scene. A beautiful dog out for a walk nuzzles Garcia. And a few feet away, there's a quiet beach with sailboats bobbing on the water.

But what might stun most New Yorkers is that this isn't a scene being filmed on location in a New England fishing village — it's being shot on City Island, a quiet seaside community of 4,500 near the northeast tip of the Bronx.

"A lot of movies have been shot here, but they tend not to be set in City Island," says director Raymond De Felitta, referring to films like "Long Day's Journey Into Night" starring Katharine Hepburn, and "Awakenings," with Robert De Niro. "I've got virgin territory here, I think."

A native New Yorker who set his 2000 film — the Sundance winner "Two Fami-

ly House" — on Staten Island, De Felitta admits he had never heard of this place. He was writing the story of a Bronx corrections officer (Garcia) who is married to Margulies but suddenly realizes a new inmate (Steven Strait of "10,000 B.C.") is his son from a childhood dalliance; without revealing the secret, he tries to help the con out.

But an article about weekend getaways inspired De Felitta to check the nabe out.

Garcia has filmed in New York many times, though he was born in Cuba and is based in Los Angeles. He had never heard of this quiet community, either, which is filled with great seafood restaurants.

"I haven't spent much time in the Bronx, except for Yankee Stadium," admits Garcia, who is also producing the film and, according to the director, basically cast it by using his phone book:

Garcia had worked with Margulies before and filmed "Pink Panther 2" with Emily Mortimer, who plays a would-be actress taking classes alongside Garcia (his character's desire to act is yet one more secret).

"We've met a lot of people who are reflected in the script on this island," says Garcia. "Their grandfathers built these homes and they live in them. The beauty of on-location shooting is that there's a realism, which I'm attracted to in cinema. A lot of things happen because of that — things you can't really plan until you're actually there."

For De Felitta, stumbling on this enclave was a stroke of luck. "It was actually sort of a perfect marriage," says the director, 44. "When I got to know more about City Island, I discovered the community is very tight-knit and close. There's not a lot of keeping secrets out here; it's an island community. This whole movie is about a family which is

trying to contain their own secrets. So it's kismet that it would be set here."

Mixing with the community, De Felitta has met with people who live in the same room where they were born. Locals have names for people born and raised here (clam diggers) and another for newcomers (mussel suckers).

Resident Sally Connolly readily admits she's a mussel sucker, having lived in one of the rambling homes on the water for a mere 10 years with her husband and children and dogs (one of which was the puppy snuggling with Garcia).

Her house is across the street from the home where the film has been shooting for 15 days, and she's invited friends to come sit on the lawn and watch filming.

"It's like summer theater," says Connolly, who previously lived on Roosevelt Island and says City Island is one of the best-kept secrets in New York.

"It's going to be less of a secret after the movie," jokes Connolly. "But I think that's going to be good for the town."

Michael Giltz

The cast and crew of "City Island," including actor Andy Garcia (far left), prepare for the next take. Below, Garcia (also the movie's producer) watches the filming of a scene. Photos by Phil Caruso

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