



# Helena rolling out red carpet

By Independent Record - 06/07/09

The star and director of "Call of the Wild 3D," much of which was filmed in Lincoln last year, are returning to town for the film's premiere this week.

Christopher Lloyd, who played the role of Bill Hale in the movie, and director Richard Gabai will be among those in Helena for the premiere.

The "red-carpet" event, which includes an invitation-only screening of the movie, will be Wednesday afternoon at Helena's Cinemark 8 theaters.

Cinemark will open the film to general Helena audiences on Thursday. The movie opens to audiences nationwide on Friday.

The premiere event will take place at the Great Northern Town Center in Helena. It kicks off with an event for selected children and their families at the Great Northern Carousel and Painted Pony Ice Cream Shop.

The stars, director and producer of the film will attend along with special guests Anthony Preite, director of the Montana Department of Commerce, Tom O'Mally, president of Vivendi Entertainment, and Greg Herman, region leader of Cinemark Theatres.



Eliza Wiley Independent Record - Christopher Lloyd rehearses a scene from 'Call of the Wild 3D' which was filmed in Lincoln last year.

Lloyd is best known for his roles as the Rev. Jim Ignatowski in the long-running television show "Taxi" and as Emmett "Doc" Brown in the popular motion picture franchise "Back to the Future."

Among Gabai's other films is "American Black Beauty," a 2005 movie starring Dean Stockwell.

According to Steven Flynn, of Vivendi Entertainment, several dozen elementary-school children from schools in Helena, Lincoln and Phillipsburg are among those invited to the Wednesday screening.

Flynn said holding the premiere in Helena is a way for the filmmakers to thank Helena, Lincoln and Phillipsburg for their hospitality during the shooting of the film.

Gabai sai he is excited to come back to the area.

"I loved Montana and its people, and I am looking forward to returning with my family to say hello to old friends, make new ones, and share our film with the people that helped made it happen," he said.

The movie described as a modern-day, family-friendly adaptation of the Jack London book by the same name.

While on winter break from her elementary school in Boston, Ryan Hale goes to visit her grandfather in Montana. Soon after her arrival, she rescues a wild dog she names Buck and nurses him back to health. Buck soon shows the outstanding qualities of a sled dog. When the town bully tries to claim Buck as his own, the sheriff decides he will be awarded to the winner of a dog sled race.

The movie was filmed during 2008's running of Montana's Race to the Sky.

Gov. Brian Schweitzer said in a press release that it was fitting that the premiere will be in Helena.

"Montana's Big Sky belongs on the big screen," Schweitzer said. "What better place to premiere 'Call of the Wild 3D' than right here in Montana's capital city."

Schweitzer noted that 14 Montanans were employed through the filming of this movie and more than 30 Montana businesses in Helena, Lincoln, Phillipsburg, Missoula and Kalispell directly generated business as a result.



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**Reader Comments:**

**montanaexpatriate** wrote on Jun 7, 2009 11:47 AM:  
 " Ignore people with little minds such as Alex, the problem with the internet is that cowards get attention on the net where no one would listen to them face to face.  
 The hollywood issue with Montana versus Canada has been a long standing thorn in our Montana hides. Many, many times movies will say in the story that it takes place in Montana, only to have it filmed on scene in Canada. I think this has been a sadly misleading practice for too long, and a major motion picture company spends lots of money locally on site...and since most Montanan's are always hurting for money, I'm glad that even a few got a much needed economical boost. Montana has been trying very, very hard to create financial incentives to keep hollywood stories true to their locations, and this is a great change to a long standing battle! Congratulations folks, and I hope that the people who really worked on set will be in the first row...not those who weren't! "

**LittletonOne** wrote on Jun 7, 2009 10:49 AM:  
 " Hey Alex:  
 Way to cheer on your home town and neighboring Lincoln!  
 As a displaced Montanan, I wish I could be there this week. That's great news for your community.  
 Congratulations Helena! "

**middleoftheroad** wrote on Jun 7, 2009 10:36 AM:  
 " alex, why turn this into a nasty political battle? Nothing better to do? 14 Montanas worked on this project, which, if it had not been shot here, may not have worked at all. The communities of Lincoln, Philipsburg, and Helena ALL benefited from having the cast and crew in these towns which may have kept several more employees working due to an increase in business. Hopefully this film will showcase the beauty of Montana and encourage other film companies and producers to film here, thus employing more people and supporting local businesses. See how it works? "

**alex** wrote on Jun 7, 2009 8:18 AM:  
 " Wow Brian, a whopping 14 whole people were employed for this film. What a joke. "

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