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ON THE BIG SCREEN

Area library staffer involved in locally shot short film

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MOORESVILLE — Mooresville Public Library recently ordered and received a copy of the 2017 20-minute sci-fi short film, "Submerge: Echo 51," which was written and directed by Demetrius Witherspoon of Indianapolis and follows the story of lone survivor Lyte, whose world is destroyed by the Krag Empire.

But the added incentive to obtain a copy is that much of the film's costuming was done by Mooresville native Catherine Freer Fox, who is also a staff member at Mooresville Public Library.

According to Fox, all of the cast and crew for the film are from Indianapolis or the surrounding area, and the filming was done locally as well. Fox said all of the film's indoor scenes were filmed in Indianapolis at The Box, a media production facility, while the outdoor scenes were shot at Bradford Woods in Morgan County.

Fox, who was brought on set by the film's assistant director, served as the film's assistant costumer, one of two in the costume department.

"I was there for a large part because the main costumer (Julie Powers) was not able to be there all the time because she was a full-time student and she was working," said Fox. "So she was only there for half the time."

As assistant costumer, Fox had a number of wardrobe responsibilities, including sewing patches onto military uniforms, finding creative ways to attach props to costumes, repairing costumes on set, labeling costumes and more. In order to keep up with the fast paced work on set, Fox carried a "grab-it" pack on set with scissors, duct tape, sewing tape, safety pins, a Sharpie and stain remover.

"At one point, I was doing costuming triage, as they called it," said Fox.

Fox also said she was responsible for making sure that costumes matched the environment. Fox described



Catherine Fox makes adjustments to a costume during filming on the set of "Submerge: Echo 51." Submitted photo.



The movie poster for "Submerge: Echo 51," shows the heroes and villains of writer and director Demetrius Witherspoon's sci-fi thriller. Courtesy photo.

"It was a really cool experience. One that I hope and plan on doing again because I've been invited back to crew for the feature film, which is in production right now."

CATHERINE FREER FOX, assistant costumer for "Submerge: Echo 51"



Catherine Fox makes some costume alterations on the set of "Submerge: Echo 51." Submitted photo.

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one scene where survivors of an alien assault are fleeing the attack, and she had to make their clothes look more weathered than they actually were.

"I had to throw Fuller's dust on them to make it look like they'd run from wreckage," said Fox.

As the film's assistant costumer, Fox was prepared to help resolve any possible costume emergencies, which is how some of her own clothing made it into the film.

"At one point in the film, the main character is wearing my socks. Early in the day, there was a scene that was shot in a creek bed, and her boots and her socks got absolutely soaked cause she was running through the water," said Fox.

Fortunately, Fox had come prepared with extra socks and was able to lend a pair to the main character so shooting could continue.

"During this montage scene, where she and the android are carrying sticks and doing other stuff around the house, she is wearing my socks," said Fox.

Fox said it took a lot of work to make the movie happen and that the days of shooting were long and busy, beginning before sunrise and continuing into the night.

"It was extremely exhausting," said Fox. "We were on set before dawn, and we didn't go home until well after sunset."

Despite all of the hard work involved, Fox said she enjoyed her experience on set and hopes to be involved in further film projects in the future.

"It was a really cool experience. One that I hope and plan on doing again because I've been invited back to crew for the feature film, which is in production right now," said Fox.

According to Fox, a "Submerge: Echo 51" feature film will be a direct continuation of the short film, set within the same universe. Fox said all of the cast and crew on "Submerge: Echo 51" were volunteers and that the director was hoping to be able to pay people for the next film.

"The director and a lot of other people are working hard to generate interest and funding," said Fox.

"Submerge: Echo 51" is now available for rental at Mooresville Public Library. To learn more about "Submerge: Echo 51," visit imdb.com/title/tt6974466/.