

## Behind the Scenes of a Book Video

I love watching movie trailers, especially the ones that make me want to run out and watch the movie. So when fellow author Vicki Hinze suggested I have one made for my next book, it was a no-brainer. I told Co-owner/Producer William Olsen of Writers-in-Motion, who had done her video, that I wanted a live-action video using actors who would bring dramatic scenes from the book to life. And because Writers-in-Motion was located in Asheville, NC, I could be there when the video was filmed. How cool was that?

After a flurry of calls and emails, William came up with a fantastic script. He warned me that book video scenes weren't necessarily in chronological order. He also took artistic license by melding two scenes into one. It was jarring because I know the story so well, but after looking at it from a movie trailer perspective I could see the vision.

When authors write books, we envision the location and do our best to describe it. In video, however, you have to show it. Homes, the woods, and prison cells are all a challenge. William came up with several great locations, including his business partner's basement, which made a great prison cell. Two of William's friends graciously allowed us to use their homes, and one even more graciously allowed us to use him. More on that later.



Filming the prison scene.  
*From left: Troy Burnette (Co-owner and Director of Photography/Camera), actor Patrick Green (in mirror) and William Olsen*

Actors. Wow, another whole facet of the video. I go through the process of “casting” my book, but now we had to find real people who could act. I sent William descriptions and a picture of Maggie, my heroine, whom I based on a model in a car advertisement. William found my villain first, an Author's Guild actor named Patrick Green. He'd played a psychopath before, and William knew he could pull off Colin. When I saw his picture, I knew he could, too.

Next came Carmen Phaup for Maggie. She was a bit young-looking, but she did a good job capturing the emotions of a mother being hunted down and terrorized by the man who caused her sister's death. As a bonus, Paul Leslie, owner of the house we used for exterior shots,

read the script and thought an actor should play the detective rather than the viewer hearing a disembodied voice. He was right, of course, but our budget didn't include more than two actors. Being a long-time stage actor, he volunteered to play the part and did a great job.

Then, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, filming began! We started in a park, and boy, was it exciting to see scenes from my book come to life! It gave me thrillbumps (and not because it was doggone cold).



Unfortunately, we decided to cut this scene because the video ran too long. *From left: Troy Burnette, William Olsen, Carmen Phaup, Michael Scott Thomas (who kindly volunteered his time and then ::SNIFF:: got cut) and Colby Sexton*

The next scene was in another park, where Maggie is jogging and the villain is creeping up on her. It was cool to watch Troy coming out of the bushes and chasing down Carmen.



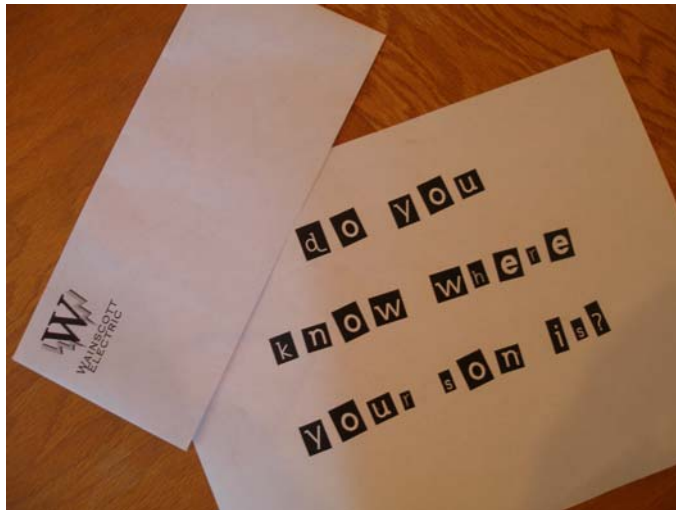
I also got to make a cameo appearance. If you look closely, you'll see my friend Gretchen and I walking out of the courthouse as Maggie is going in. The building was closed, so I reasoned that our presence would make it look like a regular day. And, heck, I just wanted to be in the video <grin>.



Patrick Green, my fabulous psychopath!



The interior of Maggie's house is actually a house-turned-architect's office (Mike Rouse)



The original creepy note, which we replaced with easier-to-read text in the final cut.

Notice the electric company's logo? Yep, Wainscott Electric! A cute surprise from the crew.



The whole crew after a long day of filming!  
(My friend Gretchen took the photo; Paul Leslie is on the right and Amanda Edwards is in front) A job well done!