

## Charlton horse farm becomes a movie set

'First World' features local girls; producer, director from area, too

By Debbie LaPlaca CORRESPONDENT

**CHARLTON**— The origins of life on Earth were discovered and recorded on film at a Charlton horse farm Saturday as cast and crew came together to shoot scenes for an upcoming science fiction epic "First World."

Overcast skies, occasional rain and gusty winds greeted members of the film crew, who arrived at Indian Hill Farm on Stafford Street to shoot the film's primary action scene.

"First World" is a science fiction tale that begins in 1969, when Apollo 11 lands on the moon and astronauts discover an advanced and flourishing civilization called the Artrans. The Apollo crew transmitted false images of the landing and moonscape as part of a government coverup. Soon after, the Earth-to-moon space program was eliminated and Artrans came to live secretly among us.

More than 50 years later, China is about to launch a manned mission to the moon. "First World" chronicles worldwide events 24 hours before the launch and ultimate discovery of the coverup.

The film's executive producer, Mark A. Lund, arrived in Massachusetts with actress Angelina Spicer and actor Zebulun Huling from Los Angeles last week.

Mr. Lund is a Spencer native who moved to Los Angeles last November when booked as a judge on the Fox television show "Skating with Celebrities." His background as a figure skater also led to his role as a skating analyst for CNN during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Once he completed the 132-page script in March, Mr. Lund chose to produce his first film in Massachusetts with his longtime friend and local filmmaker, Adam Starr.

Mr. Starr, formerly of Shrewsbury, is an Emmy-winning cinematographer with about a dozen short films to his credit.



Director Adam Starr films Brittany Wilkinson, 13, as she rides Nugget across the field Saturday at Indian Hill Farm in Charlton. The scene was one of several shot for a science-fiction film being produced by Mark Lund. (JEFF HAYNES) [Enlarge photo](#)

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Mark A. Lund,  
PRODUCER



Producer Mark A. Lund, left, and director Adam Starr, with the camera, work behind the scenes and a few steps ahead of actor and actress Steve Dennis and Angelina Spicer. (JEFF HAYNES) [Enlarge photo](#)

**“Adam just has a gift when it comes to looking through a camera and visualizing something,” Mr. Lund said. “We always talked about doing a film together.”**

**Mr. Lund said he reduced the script to film a 30-minute short for screenings in Los Angeles and entry into the 2007 film festivals.**

**The cast was hand-picked by Mr. Lund, who advertised for local actors and extras on [www.boston.craigslist.org](http://www.boston.craigslist.org), a site that is frequently visited by Charlton resident Fran Wilkinson.**

**The Massachusetts casting call was for teenage actors skilled in horsemanship. Ms. Wilkinson contacted Mr. Lund and submitted photographs of her daughters Brittany, 13, and Ashton, 14.**

**“This all happened while they were in school one day,” Mr. Wilkinson said.**

**The lead role in the movie is an Artran U.S. secretary of state, played by Ms. Spicer. Brittany was cast in the role of her daughter and Ashton as an extra.**

**When Mr. Lund was searching for a filming location, Ms. Wilkinson suggested Indian Hill Farm, where her daughters take riding instruction.**

**Farm owners Christopher S. and Janet L. Pierce hosted an eclectic crowd in their kitchen when the rain was heavy during the filming Saturday.**

**Brittany and Ashton were filmed in an equine competition scene in which the secretary of state is watching her daughter, knowing she must leave the planet and her family behind to join an exodus of aliens returning to the moon.**

**The finished short film will show spaceships on the grounds of Indian Hill Farm by using digital special effects.**

**Ashton has been riding for seven years and attends Shepherd Hill Regional High School.**

**Brittany attends Charlton Middle School and has been riding for six years.**

**“It was a completely different experience,” she said, adding, “If they make a full movie, I would like to be in that, too.”**

**The crew filmed at the Hotel Commonwealth in Boston Friday and planned to film in Dennis yesterday.**

**Saturday was the end of the Wilkinson sisters’ participation in the short film. They are now eagerly awaiting a copy by mail.**