

ARIEL PENN

Playing a vital role in Pasadena's growing popularity with filmmakers

SHE IS

The film industry's best friend in Pasadena.

ROLL 'EM

As the city's film liaison, Ariel Penn is the one-stop shop for filming permits in Pasadena.

She makes sure streets are closed, police officers and fire-fighters are around if needed, and neighbors aren't inconvenienced by the filming of hundreds of movies, television shows and commercials in the city each year.

"I'm the link between the community and the film companies," the bespectacled redhead said. "I try to make all the on-location filming in the city of Pasadena run smoothly."

She also maintains a computer database and photograph files of buildings and open spaces to help producers find the right locations.

PRETTY AS A PICTURE

Pasadena has been a popular filming location about as long as the industry has captured images on celluloid.

Since 1912, when D.W. Griffith filmed "The Queen's Necklace," filmmakers have been using the city's eclectic mix of architectural styles as backdrops for their productions.

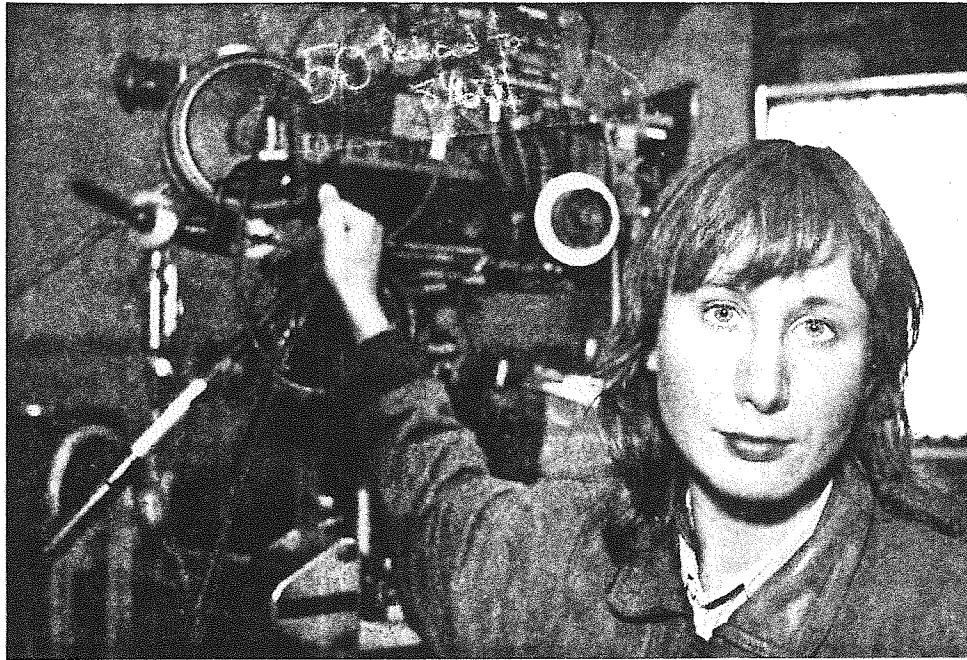
So far this year, Penn has logged 445 movie productions within the city limits and expects to exceed the city's average of \$00 per year.

BLOCKBUSTER

City officials encourage companies to consider Pasadena for their productions to tap into some of the \$16.8 billion the entertainment industry generates in Los Angeles County each year, Penn said.

She said Pasadena's economic gain is hard to measure because film and TV producers buy products and services from many different sources.

Purchases range from electrical extension cords to limousine service to lunch at the corner deli.



F.Y.I.

Moviegoers and television viewers probably have spotted Pasadena locations in some of these productions:

- ◆ "Dangerous Minds"
- ◆ "Walk in the Clouds"
- ◆ "Unstrung Heroes"
- ◆ "Devil in a Blue Dress"
- ◆ "Star Trek: Generations"
- ◆ "Nixon" (soon to be released)
- ◆ "Multiplicity" (soon to be released)
- ◆ "Adventures of Lois and Clark"
- ◆ "Star Trek: Next Generation"
- ◆ "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine"

STAR STRUCK

As a self-proclaimed "trekkie," assisting with the "Star Trek: Generations" motion picture and various segments of the former "Next Generation" series and current "Deep Space Nine" series was a thrill, she said.

Penn didn't get to meet actor Patrick Stewart when the producers of "Star Trek: Generations" filmed Capt. Picard's fantasy home sequence at a private house in southwestern Pasadena. She did meet Brent Spiner, who

plays Data, during shooting of the TV series.

"That was a lot of fun," she said. "He's really one of my favorites."

PERFECT FOR THE PART

Penn, a Pasadena resident, has been guiding filmmakers through the municipal maze of forms and official approvals needed before the cameras can roll since March 1991. Before that, she performed the same job for West Hollywood.

"The job is part government

and part film production. It's the perfect match," she said.

Penn developed an interest in government work while in high school, but dabbled in filmmaking in college. She took several screenwriting courses while pursuing her English major at UCLA and worked on a number of independent films with friends and acquaintances, she said.

"I've done almost everything, from public address system work to second assistant director work to driving the trucks," she said.

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

When Penn isn't directing film traffic in Pasadena, she relaxes by strumming alternative folk songs on her bass, a skill she picked up last year.

"It's the greatest thing for relieving stress," she said.

She performs with her band, "The Dark," at local clubs, benefits and parties.

— Story by DeAnna George, photo by Katrina P. Ten

For crying out loud, doll acts like a baby

Students at Gabrielino High School in San Gabriel will soon learn to deal with a crying baby without having one.

The Soroptimist International of Alhambra, San Gabriel and San Marino gave the school a life-size doll that cries like a baby when it is put in the wrong position, handled too roughly or wants feeding or comforting.

The gift helped launch the school's new "Baby Think It Over" program, which tries to encourage teen-agers to consider the ramifications before they become pregnant.

Each weekend the crying doll, which weighs 20 pounds, will be sent home with a student.

A monitor registers the "mother's" responses to the doll's cries. The doll continues to cry until someone attends to it.

"We want teens to learn about all the responsibilities and this is a very special way to do it," said club member Jane Burris, who presented the doll to Gabrielino Principal Dan R. Mooney.

Dr. B.J. Witz, Soroptimist president, attests to the intensity of the doll's cries.

"During a demonstration, I was supposed to be able to shut

off the sound with a special key," Witz said. "I couldn't find the key. What a racket!"

Show offers view of growing up in Pomona

Life in Pomona from the perspective of a group of first-graders is documented in a collection of photographs on display this month at the Pomona Public Library.

The 10 photos in the exhibit are a sampling of more than 1,000 camera shots taken by first-graders from Vejas Elementary School who attended a month-long photography workshop in June.

The workshop was conducted by Los Angeles photographer Eugene Ahn and Pomona elementary school teacher Cecilia Parreñas.

It was partly funded by the Rockefeller Foundation

Students were challenged to capture a sense of where they live using disposable-type cameras. They were encouraged to photograph the daily rituals and activities of their families and neighborhoods.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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Published by
California Community News,
A Times Mirror Company.

JEFFREY S. KLEIN, President and CEO
WILLIAM LOBDELL, Editor
STEVE MARBLE, Managing Editor

HOW TO REACH US

Circulation: Los Angeles Times
(818) 443-2451, (818) 308-0084

Advertising: Los Angeles Times
Classified: (818) 359-4445,
(818) 443-3834

Display: (818) 303-8931, (909) 988-2919

Editorial:

California Community News
News: (818) 303-8966
Newsroom Fax: (818) 359-4289
Readers Hotline: (818) 303-8969

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Monrovia, California, 91016.

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