



Wide Awake Films LLC
511 Delaware, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64105
Office (816) 872-FILM (3456)
FAX (816) 872-3459
www.wideawakefilms.com

For immediate release

Contact: Ed Leydecker, 816.979.1201 or ed@wideawakefilms.com

Hollywood Travels to Kansas City

*Independent Film "Arkansas Traveler" Begins Production in KC
Teaser to Raise Financing*

KANSAS CITY, MO— Local, Emmy® award-winning, production company Wide Awake Films partners with Los Angeles-based Travelin' Productions to produce an independent feature film called *Arkansas Traveler*, a Faustian Western set in the dark, waning days of the American Civil War. Production begins here in Kansas City on Saturday, March 27th and Sunday, March 28th and will focus on the filming of key scenes – the most captivating, daring, and intriguing moments in the script. The producers intend to create a teaser that they will use to attract potential financiers.

The film stars Garret Dillahunt (*No Country for Old Men*, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, *Last House on the Left*) as Wayland McLawhorn, a captured Confederate cavalryman who escapes from the infamous Rock Island prison camp in Illinois and embarks across war-torn Missouri on a treacherous journey home to Arkansas, with the help of the enigmatic John Bones (Sean Bridgers - *Sweet Home Alabama*, *Paradise Falls*, HBO's *Deadwood*), and wilted flower Myrtle (Angela Bettis – Stephen King's *Carrie*; *Girl, Interrupted*, *May*).

The production utilizes many local Kansas City crew members, as well as a few from both coasts. This shoot involves the area's best historical consultants and arguably one of the nation's most experienced civil war historical filmmaking team.

"We've done a lot of historical documentary projects for clients like NATGEO, PBS and The History Channel," explains Shane Seley, Wide Awake Films' founder, "But we're excited to tackle a narrative feature, especially with partners of this caliber."

The project will be directed by Sean Bridgers and Michael "Ffish" Hemschoot, owners of the independent film development company, Travelin' Productions. Sean and Michael have each achieved success in their own Hollywood careers: Sean as an actor and independent writer/director, and Michael as an animator and visual effects artist on films like *Master and Commander*, *National Treasure*, and *The Matrix*. The filmmaking duo has already collaborated on the short film, *A Night at the Zoo*, which was nominated for

Best Short in its debut last year at the Little Rock Film Festival. Travelin' Productions blends its interest in emerging cinema technologies with a passion for telling traditional blue-collar stories in a fresh and innovative way.

Wide Awake Films holds the same values. Since 1991, Seley and co-founder Ed Leydecker have produced fifteen historical documentaries and executed re-creation productions for national broadcasters such as PBS, The History Channel, A&E, CBS, and National Geographic. Wide Awake Films blends their passion for history with exceptionally progressive technology and premium camera systems, like the Viper Filmstream camera, which was used for principal photography in the Oscar-winning film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. *Arkansas Traveler* will boast this same cutting-edge technology.

The Viper Filmstream, an ultra-High-Definition digital film camera, shoots to hard drives instead of film or tape. These hard drives are small and portable, and they allow instant playback, so filmmakers can view their footage easily, immediately, and at the highest resolution. Shooting with the Viper is much like shooting film, except "the film" is now a digital file that doesn't require development at a film lab, Fed Ex charges, or worry. Unlike other cameras, the Viper provides a picture resolution that can support high-resolution still images for print pieces or for the web.

Travelin' Productions and Wide Awake Films intends to leverage its combined artistic experience, subject matter expertise and technological prowess to cost-effectively produce *Arkansas Traveler*.

For more information or to request a press pass for the shoot, please contact:

Amanda Curtis: 816.824.2072 or amanda@wideawakefilms.com

Ed Leydecker: 816.520.3456 or ed@wideawakefilms.com.

####

Wide Awake Films is a creative media group focused on innovative, efficient execution of historical, commercial, and corporate video and film production. They excel in producing compelling and powerful corporate messages, as well as Emmy® award-winning historical content for museums, documentaries and television programming. Visit us at www.wideawakefilms.com.