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# OXFORD FILM FREAK

## It's a wrap. Now things get interesting Filming for local film ends; editing phase begins

By MELANIE ADDINGTON  
*Oxford Film Freak*

**I**t's a wrap. After three months of pre-production work and three weeks of filming, "Where I Begin" moves to the editing phase Friday. This is where things get really interesting. Right now, there is all this footage but now how it is pieced together, how sound is synched up and what music and underscore is chosen is what can make or break the film.

Filming in Oxford in August has mostly meant a lot of sweating. There has also been blood, thanks to local theater professor Rory Ledbetter who developed a concoction for our big fight scene for the film. There has also been tears both on camera and off. But throughout all of it, there has been teamwork and the driving force that is Thomas L. Phillips as director.

Phillips has kept the production ahead of schedule, with most days finishing two to three hours ahead of or at least on time. All of the crew has commented repeatedly that this is the most on-time set they have worked for and while it is my first, there does seem to be a major efficiency on the part of the crew to get shots set up quickly. But it helped that everyone hired for the film works hard and is passionate about the project.

In the past three weeks, we have had tremendous support from the Oxford and Sardis community, from the wonderful police officers who stop in to check on us to friends and family who bring us food. Everyone has chipped in, which makes it an amazing Oxford experience.

Milly West and Mike Stanton have been on set consistently to take still photos for us. Bruce Butler helped with some outtake scenes for comedic relief and even handcrafted some of our props. He and his comedy troupe

LaffCo have supported the film financially as well as bringing us all dinner one night. Katherine Fields created a T-shirt for the lead character Jacob – which are amazing and something we hope to sell soon – and she also will develop the movie poster and when we had a pipe burst at our planned location, opened up her home to let us film. Courtney Hall was an extra and then brought us lunch to set one day. Bob and Jane Pekala, Georgia Beth Griffin, Valeena Beety, Betsy and Ian Banner, Gene Gathright and the Andrews, plus my own family and my own guest rooms and couches have all been home to cast and crew.

Wayne Andrews and Yoknapatawpha Arts Council have been the biggest advocates of the film and of arts in general and honestly no one can start this big a project without their support. Andrews also fed the crew and let us use his house to film. The film commission provided us with walkie talkies that have helped save us lots of time and running and shouting.

Molly Fergusson and Kevin Stuart have opened up their Taylor home to let us film. Magical Tans, Big Star, Parrish's, Big Bad Breakfast and Sno Biz opened their arms to allow us to film without charging us. John Currence even took on a speaking role as John, a guy who orders at Big Bad Breakfast. There have been so many others that have helped as well and really this film would not have made it without all the support we received from the community.

Now, we begin plans for screenings which will begin in early 2011. Oxford will be the first to see the film and we hope that all your efforts and ours pay off into a great film. Thanks for following along on our journey. Now it's time for me to catch up on all the movies I have missed the past four months and get back to writing about them.



PHOTOS BY MIKE STANTON

**Oxonian Leah Bridge on set at Big Bad Breakfast as an extra in the film "Where I Begin" (top). Director Thomas L. Phillips has a cameo appearance in the film (below).**

