

Actress Lisa Regina returns to her alma mater to shoot next film



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More than 500 **Triton Regional** students gathered on the front lawn of the high school recently to take a stand against bullying.

There wasn't a rally or a guest speaker discussing the problematic social issue.

Instead there were movie cameras and a director who once walked the same halls as these teenagers.

Actress **Lisa Regina** — who graduated from **Runnemede**'s Triton Regional High School in 1978 — is planning to shoot the feature film, “Shooters Nail,” at Triton and in locations throughout South Jersey in the late summer of 2014.

But on Dec. 20, Regina and the **Jaunted Productions** crew, lead by **Paulsboro**'s **Michael Lucas**, set up to shoot the first promo video for the film.

“This is going to be a promo for the feature,” Regina said. “The purpose is to communicate the message of the film and the story.”

The film, which will star **Eric Roberts** in the leading role, will center around wheelchair basketball and bullying.

Regina said she hopes Triton will be the flagship school to start an anti-bullying movement.

“There is power in uniting voices,” she said. “Teen are afraid to speak out. They don’t want to get involved. But this shoot will show them uniting in one strong voice and diminishing the power of the bully.”

Melissa Sheppard, principal of Triton Regional, said Regina first approached her about the idea last summer.

“The school has been through a lot the last couple years, so we’re trying to instill pride in yourself, pride in the school and pride in being a Mustang (school mascot), and to not tolerate bullying because we’re one big family,” Sheppard said. “We think this is a positive message so it goes right along with what we’re trying to instill in the students.”

For the shoots, the students needed to walk out of three different exits of the school and assemble in the circular driveway at the main entrance of the school.

Once in place, the students needed to react to a loud noise in the sky and then, lead by the school’s drumline, begin to clap, stomp and chant, “We see you.”

“These kids are awesome,” Lucas said after the shot was wrapped. “They should be very proud.”

Lucas said he met Regina when she invited him to be a speaker during one of her acting classes.

“She told me she had plans for a feature film,” he said. “Today, we’re shooting the anti-bullying campaign called ‘We see you.’ Everyone involved has been tremendous in helping to make this happen. Everything she asks for, she gets.”

Lucas — writer and director of feature horror film “Billy’s Cult” — had a full Jaunted Productions crew on set with approximately seven cameras rolling.

“From a little idea, it turned into a big production,” he said. “It couldn’t have been done without all the help we’ve gotten.”

Regina said the students are very excited to be a part of the project.

“High school students don’t care too much about what’s not happening right in front of them, she said. “So for them to show excitement is great. When I’m

talking to them about it, they get really quiet and take it all in, then just say, 'Yeah, that's cool,' They really get it."

Regina is very happy to be shooting in her hometown.

"My network in New York City wanted to shoot in New York and Long Island, but I have a home in Runnemedede and talked them into shooting down here," she said. "I'm really psyched they decided to do it here."

Regina has appeared on film and television, including "The Sopranos," "Bronx Paradise," "Priceless" and "All My Children," and in national commercial campaigns for Delta Sky Miles, K-Mart, Macy's and was the on-air host for the 2010 Maxwell Football Awards.

She teaches actors privately and in workshops through her company LR Acting Workshops, providing training and industry connections.

In 2001, Regina wrote, directed and produced an educational film, "Kenny," which won the Manhattan Global Film Festival and a Humanitarian Award.

For more information about Lisa Regina, visit www.lisaregina.com. To learn more about Jaunted Productions, visit www.jauntedproductions.com.