

LaPorte District Rest Area Plays A Part In “Danny’s Day Trip”

Travelers enjoy INDOT’s rest areas to stretch their legs, use the facilities, buy a snack ... and now watch a movie shoot!

Matthew Scott Lloyd, a graduate student of DePaul University in Chicago, received permission from INDOT to use the Michigan City Rest Area off I-94 on June 28 for his independent film, “Danny’s Day Trip.”

In the film, the characters stop for a snack while on the road, and the rest area served as that very location. The crew shot three separate scenes there, including one next to the vending machines, and two others in parts of the parking lot.

LaPorte District Media Relations Director Matt Deitchley was on site while the filming took place over eight hours on one of June’s hottest days in northwest Indiana. The rest area was still open to the public while shooting was underway. That meant there were plenty of onlookers, and most were hoping for a brush with Hollywood.

“There was a steady stream of people walking by the set, and they were full of questions,” said Deitchley. “Even though I’d tell them it was an independent film with unknown actors, many were convinced I was covering for Brad Pitt. A few even asked if they could be extras in the movie.”

The film tells the story of an Iraq War veteran battling post-traumatic stress disorder, and his experiences with a taxi driver, who is taking him to an Indian Reservation in Michigan. Lloyd was to wrap up shooting by the end of July. He says his goal is to screen “Danny’s Day Trip” at film festivals nationwide.



Young filmmaker Matthew Scott Lloyd (in blue ball cap and white T-shirt) oversaw cast and crew in the parking lot of the Michigan City Rest Area while shooting a scene from “Danny’s Day Trip.”