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maribeth dwyer • news editor

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UM PLAYED ROLE IN INITIAL  
PHASE OF "HEARTLAND" FILM

MISSOULA--

Legislators and their guests will attend a special showing of "Heartland" Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Gaslight Theatre in Helena as guests of the Montana Association of Theatre Owners and Richard C. Bowers, president of the University of Montana.

It is fitting that the UM be involved in this event because the UM played a leading role in the initial phase of this nationally acclaimed film, which was shot entirely in Montana.

The film was produced by Wilderness Women Productions, Inc., Missoula, and Filmhaus, Inc., New York. Wilderness Women Productions had its inception in the Wilderness Women Project, which was housed in the Wilderness Institute within the School of Forestry at the UM.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to the Wilderness Institute funded the research and development phase of "Heartland." Robert Ream and Arnold Bolle of the School of Forestry were the project directors.

Subsequently, Wilderness Women Productions received a \$600,000 production grant from the NEH for the filming of "Heartland."

(over)

"HEARLAND" -- add one

The research and development project involved Dale Harris of the Wilderness Institute as the accountant. Anne Hausmann, assistant to the associate vice-president for research at the UM, was a grant consultant and helped in the initial fund-raising efforts. Dale Johnson, UM archivist, helped in locating research materials on western women. K. Ross Toole, professor of history, was the historical consultant, and William Kittredge, professor of English, was a writing consultant and the writer of some scenes in the screenplay.

The film's executive producer, Annick Smith of Wilderness Women Productions, and co-producer Beth Ferris, who wrote the screenplay, also have UM connections.

Smith took training for a teaching certificate at the UM. For a time she edited the "Montana Business Quarterly," published by the UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, and she has taught classes in the English Department.

Ferris has also studied at the UM, and she taught for one quarter a humanities class titled "Images of Wilderness Through Journal and Film."

Her script for "Heartland" was based on the experiences of Elinore Pruitt Stewart and Clyde Stewart, turn-of-the-century pioneers near Burntfork, Wyo.

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