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Making Movies in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Camera set up at Si Si Caffè



Cathy Corsi's daughter Cynthia and waitress Renee Gomer all dressed up to play in the production

Who'd have thought that Moraga might be the perfect setting for a thriller? If you're looking for some small town ambience, turns out Moraga's just the ticket.

On March 4th and 5th a cinema crew from Entwin Productions filmed

scenes for the upcoming movie *My Eleventh* in Moraga. A production scout discovered Cathy Corsi's Si Si Caffè, on Country Club Drive, and suggested it for a scene in the murder mystery. "When they came that day, they took over the café," said Terry

Wolf-Stratton, who works in the salon next door, "The two stars of the movie were so gorgeous and sweet. It was very interesting to see them work; it's real business and when we had to be quiet that was dead serious."

My Eleventh is a full-length fic-

tion movie starring John Benjamin Hickey as the killer and actress Marin Hinkle as the lead female character. Hinkle is a familiar face to sitcom fans - she plays Judith Harper in Charlie Sheen's erstwhile *Two and a Half Men*. Hickey has been featured

in such television shows as *Law and Order* and *The Good Wife*, and had a role in Clint Eastwood's movie *Flags of Our Fathers*.

Corsi was thrilled by the events of the day. "They asked my daughter Lea and my 12-year old granddaughter Cara to play the mother and sister of one of the victims in the scene where they filmed her burial at the Commons," said Corsi, "then they asked my other daughter, Cynthia, to play one of the victims and she joined the production team in Oakland, where they continued filming."

As the production team went on filming at the Moraga Commons Park, many young Moragans gathered around the team hoping to pick up a little big-screen face time as extras. There was much excitement in the otherwise peaceful park that lasted into the night.

Pedaling for a Greener Tomorrow

By Cathy Dausman



Greg Thomas in his velomobile

Photos Cathy Dausman

Look, up ahead! Is it a kayak? Is it a plane? Is it a banana? No, it's Greg Thomas in his yellow velomobile! A velomobile is a three-wheeled recumbent bike (two-wheel steering in front) covered in a fiberglass shell. Thomas currently rides a Dutch built Mango Sport model, which weighs 65 lbs and is 8 feet long.

Human Powered Vehicles, or HPVs, are still fairly new in the U.S. Thomas estimates there are only a dozen such vehicles scattered across the Bay Area. Velomobiles (velo rhymes with yellow) are quite common in Europe, even in the colder climates. They can be fitted with a kayak-like neoprene "skirt" and bubble top windscreen to keep the driver warm. They have electric lights and a bell and/or horn. Some are fitted with a small electric motor to assist on uphill climbs. Velomobile drivers can easily maintain a 20-30 mile per hour pace on flat pavement, keeping pace with residential street traffic, but Thomas is careful to observe the 15 mph upper limit on local bike trails. "I try to be a good trail user," he says, but "as with any bike you

drive defensively."

An Orinda resident and Cal Berkeley graduate, Thomas is a Senior Project Manager for American Mechanical. He was a college gymnast and has done "lots of paragliding and kite surfing." His interest in recumbent bikes dates to the late 1990's. He first rode recumbents in 2001, and switched to riding a velomobile in 2008. He commuted on his first model for a year before buying the Mango Sport.

Thomas participated in the Portland, Oregon, Left Coast Velomobile gathering in May, 2010 and joined the Niagara, Canada Velomobile Happening last September on a borrowed velomobile. His most challenging ride to date will no doubt be his participation in this summer's Roll Over America (ROAM) adventure.

In late July, Thomas and four dozen velomobile riders will gather in Portland, Oregon and pedal across country to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness for this eco-friendly transportation. Riders from Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, and Italy will join

a contingent of North American riders. Thomas explains his commitment to ride on the ROAM (<http://www.rollloveramerica.eu/>) website: "Roll Over America will be an opportunity [to] challenge myself to attempt my dream of

crossing the U.S. by human power while being surrounded by remarkable people and machines. This will be an amazing event." Thomas is the only Lamorindan making the ROAM trip.

To prepare for the trip Thomas commutes to work in Walnut Creek two or three times a week along the Lafayette Moraga trail. "Velomobiles are incredible machines that satisfy my need for exercise, efficient transportation and beautiful engineering design," he

says. He has made over 200 round-trips since he bought his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles. But he's got to ramp up the mileage considerably in preparation for this summer's trip; the group plans to ride an average of 200 km (124 miles) a day for four weeks.

Thomas says the velomobile is the "ultimate in efficient transportation. It's also a vehicle for social change. People *should* be doing [HPV] trips."

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