

## Now Playing A Leading Role In Hollywood Productions: Paper

(NAPSA)—For the better part of a century, Hollywood—in the northwest part of downtown Los Angeles—has been America’s dream factory, it’s film capital. But every movie that comes through Tinseltown—from the big-budget blockbuster to the tiniest of independent films—has something in common: It starts with an idea that gets put down on paper.

Before a movie is made, there’s the script coverage: A high number of screenplays are turned in to production companies and the screenplays are graded by the “script development” department of the production company. A written report contains the valuation of whether a script is adaptive or not. Most writers know there can be a long timeline, especially if a script is at a grade of “consider.” But sometimes it goes to a department head or executive.

Currently, 70,000 screenplays are written each year; that’s 7 million sheets of paper. Only 2,100 of these screenplays written annually get any attention from Hollywood. And, down to earth, a bit more than 400 films are produced. Big film companies such as Universal Pictures, Warner Bros. or Columbia Pictures produce about 30 films on average per year.

What makes paper a hidden champion in Hollywood? In the world of movies, it is omnipresent; a screenplay (which generally ranges from 100-130 pages) is like the framework for a movie, and lots of people draw on the script—people acting behind the scenes as



**Hollywood runs on paper, with scripts and schedules generated for thousands of actors and crew members.**

well as the cast. They use a copy of the script to grasp the plot and understand what happens to the characters on stage and off. People on the set read the screenplay again and again—to break down scenes and characters, to focus on the props, costumes, lighting, sound effects, etc. Even the big movie stars take their script everywhere, to the hotel room, to the beach.... What this means is that even if the latest technology is used to produce movies for theaters all over the country and the film production is mostly digitalized, you cannot do without paper.

What many people may not realize is just how many people can make up a film’s crew—from a few dozen to more than a thousand on a big, special effects-laden film. That’s because on the set every duty is assigned to a profession—cinematography, postproduction, writer and script editor, art department, sound department, etc.

For example, in the cast and crew for the third “Pirates of the Caribbean” movie with Johnny Depp in 2007, 1,499 people were

involved (83 actors, 1,416 crew). The story is being told on 100 pages of screenplay. That’s about 100,000 pages of scripts only for actors and directors for one film. Movie triumph “Forrest Gump,” winner of six Academy Awards, supplied 133 actors and 456 crew members with 75 pages of screenplay each.

No wonder that the City of Los Angeles’ annual paper consumption is more than 600 million sheets (3,000 tons). And it’s not only screenplays and schedules that produce a lot of paper on the set. Julia Roberts, for example, compiled a lot of printed research material for “Charlie Wilson’s War,” as the film is based on true events.

Tons of paper used in Hollywood and across the U.S. are produced on paper machines from Voith Paper, the big process supplier for the worldwide paper industry. Voith manufactures paper machines that can use a high amount of recycled fibers for the production of new paper as used for screenplays. As the papermaking process is very complex, high-tech machines are necessary. Voith develops technological solutions that cover the entire paper production process—from fiber to wrapped paper.

Over one-third of all paper consumed worldwide is made on Voith production lines. And the company has extensive experience—beginning with the fiber technology, through finishing and right up to printing technology. To learn more, visit the Web site at [www.voithpaper.com](http://www.voithpaper.com).