

Band to appear in Bacon movie



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Blue Moon Big Band are shown with actor Kevin Bacon, center, during filming of the movie "My One and Only" in Baltimore.

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When Joe Sullivan joined the Blue Moon Big Band last year, he simply wanted an outlet to play his tenor saxophone and perform the swing music he enjoys.

Never in his wildest dreams did he think joining the band would lead to being in a movie starring two of Hollywood's most recognizable actors.

Yet, that's exactly what happened.

Just a few months after joining the Blue Moon Big Band, Sullivan found himself on the set of "My One and Only," a 1950s-era

ON THE NET

■ **Blue Moon Big Band:** www.bluemoonbigband.com

■ **"My One and Only" official Web site:** www.myoneandonly.com

comedy starring Kevin Bacon and Renee Zellweger.

About half of the Blue Moon Big Band's 19-member orchestra was selected to shoot scenes in Baltimore for the movie

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premiering in New York and Los Angeles today. "My One and Only" is not yet in local theaters.

Most of the scenes were shot in and around Baltimore last year.

The comedy follows Ann Devereaux (Zellweger), who has just left her philandering husband and society bandleader Dan (Bacon), according to the movie's official Web site.

"My One and Only" is loosely based on events in the life of actor George Hamilton.

Blue Moon Big Band leader Rob Leonard, of Taneytown, said his musicians were chosen to portray Bacon's band in the movie. Leonard said the casting director liked the idea of band that specialized in 1940s-era music on stage instead of extras who wouldn't be able to play music.

Blue Moon Big Band members spent four days and about 40 hours on location filming scenes that feature Bacon.

When Leonard sent out an e-mail checking on the availability of band members to be in a movie, Sullivan, of Sykesville, said he couldn't believe what he was reading.

"I was like, 'Is this for real?'" said Sullivan, the band director at Shiloh Middle School in Hampstead.

After agreeing to participate, Sullivan was given a haircut and fit for a white suit in June 2008.

Then for four long days, Sullivan got to experience life on the set of a motion picture.

He marveled at how hard the crew worked. Sullivan said shoots started at 5 a.m. and lasted until 10 p.m.

He reveled in the food options. He could choose from fruit, bagels, eggs, bacon and sausage for breakfast, sandwiches for lunch and beef jerky and cookies during breaks.

He watched Bacon, who has starred in more than 50 movies, at work.

Leonard said Bacon was down to earth and posed for photos with band members during the last day of shooting, which happened to be Bacon's 50th birthday.

Leonard said the band never got to meet Zellweger, who is not in any of their scenes.

Getting the chance to work with Bacon was a surprise.

"Literally, a day before filming, they told me, 'Oh, by the way, the band leader is going to be Kevin Bacon,'" Leonard said. "I said, 'Hey, that's not so bad.'"

Leonard, a lifelong swing music aficionado, founded the Blue Moon Big Band 10 years ago.

The 19-member orchestra performs regionally. It will perform at The Maryland Wine Festival in Westminster Sept. 20.

Leonard is seeking a sponsor for a proposed New Year's Eve gala in Westminster.

These are the types of gigs Sullivan eagerly signed up for when he joined the band.

Turns out he will forever be one degree of separation from Bacon as a result of joining the band as well.

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ABOUT THE FILM

Title: "My One and Only"

Genre: Comedy
Starring: Kevin Bacon, Renee Zellweger, Chris Noth and Logan Lerman

Director: Richard Loncraine

Rating: PG-13

Local links: The Blue Moon Big Band, led by Rob Leonard, of Taneytown, were filmed in scenes for the movie. Most scenes were shot in and around Baltimore.

Synopsis: The beautiful but mercurial Ann Devereaux has just left her philandering husband, Dan Devereaux, a society bandleader. She has taken to the road with her teenage sons. Although it's 1953, Ann is certain that her girlish charms will serve her as well as they did two decades earlier.

Source: www.myoneandonly.com