

7 Stones begins filming in Grand Rapids

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WYOMING, MICH. -- JULY 24, 2011 -- A new, locally produced film began shooting here yesterday.

[7 Stones](#) is written, directed and co-produced by Tom Norton, a West Michigan-based filmmaker who recently received a national Telly Award for his documentary *How Will We Live?*

The film is about an imprisoned woman who had committed crimes against humanity and, ironically, plans to kill a man to redeem herself. In prison, she meets the mysterious Joseph -- a man trapped but unknown to his captors -- who is determined to destroy their prison from the inside out. In a cell where it is always raining, these two people form a bond based on unsteady trust and shared grief.

"7 Stones is about a person realizing she made a very bad choice and having the courage to start over," Norton said.

The woman, Laura, is played by local actor [Melissa Anschutz](#), and the role of Joseph is played by well-known international indie actor [DJ Perry](#). Several other locally based actors round out the cast.

7 Stones' crew involves a number of working industry professionals from West Michigan. "The film inspires for its use of local talent in production and acting and will be a strong addition to the local creative community," said Co-Producer Girbe Eefsting, a principal with Norton at [3rd Coast Film Partners](#). "This is a film that could help encourage film incentives for creative talent from Michigan, especially West Michigan."

The film is being shot in a former Steelcase facility now known as The Paul Building near Eastern Avenue and 36th Street in Wyoming. A portion of the vast space has been transformed into a working movie set to accommodate a six-day shoot on a set designed by West Michigan production designer John Despres. An Emmy winner for his work on the children's television show *Come On Over*, Despres also managed set design for the feature-length film *The Steam Experiment* starring Val Kilmer and Armand Assante, which filmed in Grand Rapids several years ago.

7 Stones will be featurette length, approximately 45 minutes. Producers plan to market it nationally and internationally as well as submit it to major film festivals. More in the Media Room at <http://www.3rdcoastfilm.com/index-4.html>.

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