

# Stamford in the spotlight

**'The Big C':** Showtime series starring Laura Linney shoots all summer around city



KATHLEEN O'ROURKE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crew members work on the set of Showtime's "The Big C" Tuesday on Verplank Avenue in Stamford.

**By Martin B. Cassidy**  
Staff Writer

STAMFORD — After hearing that "The Big C," a new Showtime cable television production, is being shot around town, Shippan resident Joe Dispalto decided to swing by to watch scenes being shot on Verplank Avenue.

Dispalto said he was excited to see the show's star, Laura Linney, an Emmy-award winning actress who has also starred in the movie "The Truman Show" and played Abigail Adams in the HBO series "John Adams."

"I think most people think it is a nice thing," Dispalto said of the filming.

See Showtime on A6



Crews set up to film the movie "We Need to Talk About Kevin" in the Springdale Shopping Center on Thursday. The state's film tax credit program continues to bring movie and television projects to the area.

DRU NADLER/FOR THE ADVOCATE

# Showtime series filming this summer in Stamford

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The series is to film its 13-episode first season in Stamford, splitting time between the Connecticut Film Center's 62,000-square-foot production studio on Stillwater Avenue and outdoor locations citywide, said Kevin Segalla, the center's president.

"They're using our facilities. ... 'The Big C' is certainly great for many local businesses and very exciting for the city," Segalla said. "We hope they are in it for the long haul."

In the show, Linney plays a wife and mother who is diagnosed with cancer, which changes her outlook on life.

The show, which has completed about 11 days of shooting in Stamford, should finish shooting locally in mid-August, said Rafael Lima, an assistant location manager for the show.

Segalla and Stamford Citizen Services Supervisor Frank Fedeli, who coordinates movie projects for the city, said the state's movie and film tax credit program is continuing to burnish Stamford's growth as a filming destination.

Fedeli said the city has gotten a boost in the number of television productions interested in Stamford after a January issue of *MovieMaker* magazine, a trade publication, ranked it the sixth-best place for filmmakers, ahead of Boston, Seattle and Philadelphia.

"'The Big C' is the biggie right now ... but we've got some other productions we hope will come here," Fedeli said. "We were very pleasantly surprised with the magazine's ranking, and we are building on that."

Fedeli said Stamford estimates production of a single episode of "The Big C" repre-



KATHLEEN O'ROURKE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The crew works on the set of Showtime's "The Big C" on Verplank Avenue in Stamford on Tuesday. The show, which stars Laura Linney, is filming around the city this summer.

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sents \$1.5 million in production costs, much of it spent with local construction, electrical and other firms.

In addition to Shippan, the show has used filming sites downtown, Waterside and other neighborhoods, Fedeli said. Lima said the crew would be shooting periodically throughout the summer on Verplank Avenue.

"Shippan is a beautiful location, and there is an eclectic mix of houses, both old and new," Lima said. "Stamford works well into the production plan because of all the facilities and services we can access."

Segalla said the pace of fea-

ture filmmaking statewide has slackened since the economic setbacks of 2008 made financing more difficult.

Competition for films also has been stiffer now that more states have adopted film tax credit programs like Connecticut's, he said.

"Before we were building up movies, and now we are building up television," Segalla said. "With the work that has been done, I think we are really going to get a permanent industry here."

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