

# The Hour

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unusual bye week  
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## DIARY OF A NORWALK MOVIE

LOCAL



Film crew shooting the motion picture, "We The Peeples," load equipment in front of Rowayton Market, whose name was changed along with other local businesses' names to allow the town to double as Sag Harbor on Long Island.

Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN

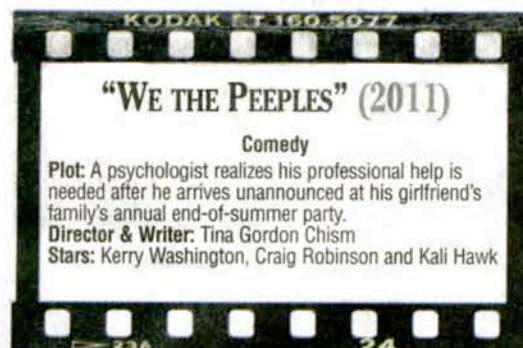
## Tyler Perry production 'We the Peeples' being filmed in Rowayton

**NORWALK**  
By ROBERT KOCH  
Hour Staff Writer

Downtown Rowayton this week became Sag Harbor, N.Y., as the cast and crew of the Tyler Perry film "We the Peeples" shot scenes at several locations, including the Hampton Jitney stop.

On Wednesday, actor Craig Robinson, who plays the lead character Wade in the film, stepped off a bus at Hampton Jitney to take a water taxi to visit his girlfriend's family at the family's weekend estate in the Hamptons.

"Wade is a guy who is with his girl in New York, and his girl is called home to visit her family in Sag Harbor — a wealthy political family and controlling," said Paul Hall, a producer for the film. "So he follows this girl



home and it's all about what happens when they get home with the family and fitting in. They're going from Manhattan to Sag Harbor on the Jitney. This will be Craig arriving in Sag Harbor to follow her."

The film, a comedy, is a production of Lionsgate. Tina Gordon Chism is the writer/director. The executive producer is

Tyler Perry, whose previous movies include 'Diary of a Mad Black Woman' and 'Madea's Family Reunion.' As of Wednesday, Perry hadn't been to the set but he would be at some point, according to Hall.

The cast includes Robinson, Kerry Washington, Kali Hawk, Tyler James Williams, David Alan Grier, S. Epatha Merkerson, Malcolm Barrett, Diahann Carroll, Melvin Van Peebles and Kimrie Lewis-Davis, according to the Internet Movie Database.

Film sets Wednesday included the Hampton Jitney stop and Rowayton Market, both along Rowayton Avenue, which police closed off to traffic for the filming.

"This is our third day. We'll be at the market and here for two days," said Eddy Collyns, location manager for the film.

## Tyler Perry filming 'We the Peeples' movie on location in Rowayton

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"We're at the Rowayton Market for two days. And then we're in Pinkney Park for two days."

According to Collyns, Wednesday's filming in Rowayton engaged 120 people, including drivers, crew and cast members. That number will jump to 160 people next week, he said.

For Ray Abbott, who drives a bus for Hampton Jitney, the film meant getting up early Wednesday in Southampton, N.Y., and coming to Rowayton for an ordinary day of work. His passengers Wednesday included actors and actresses.

"They're getting off my bus and acting like they're getting on a boat," said Abbott, who joked about his own future as an actor. "Are you kidding? I'm going to win an Academy Award. This could be my break. I could be going to Hollywood."

For Rachel Konstantin of Norwalk and Patricia Lawton of Madison, 'We the Peeples' has meant a quick commute to work. Both are union actors who have roles in the film.

"It's wonderful. We usually have to drive to Brooklyn, or Bayonne, N.J., or Staten Island," Konstantin said. "So to crawl out of bed and drive



Hour photo / ERIK TRAUTMANN

Set workers on the motion picture, "We the Peeples," change the name of Brendan's Restaurant on Rowayton Avenue, along with other businesses, to allow the town to double as Sag Harbor on Long Island.

"IT'S GREAT TO BE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. EVERYONE'S BEEN GREAT. THEY'RE VERY EMBRACING AND THEY'VE BEEN GRACIOUS AND WE APPRECIATE IT."

Paul Hall, a producer

15 minutes to work is like a dream come true."

Lawton credited the Connecticut Film Tax Credit, which was signed into law four years ago, for bringing 'We the Peeples' and other film productions to the area.

"It's working for us and it's

bringing money to the towns," Lawton said. "I think it's a really positive thing."

Allain said filming will continue in the area — Rowayton, Norwalk, Greenwich and Stamford — and wrap up the day before Christmas. The film is expected to be released late next year.

For now, the focus is on 'Sag Harbor,' whose residents have been quite hospitable, according to Hall.

"It's great to be in your community. Everyone's been great," Hall said. "They're very embracing and they've been gracious and we appreciate it."

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