

Airport to go Spanish for anti-smuggling film

by Mark Oliphant

A FILM about drug smuggling is to be shot partly in Guernsey.

London-based ZZ Productions has arranged to shoot various scenes for the full-length feature, *On The Run*, at locations including Cobo and the airport.

'Guernsey is a very filmic location,' said writer Tania Meneguzzi, who is also making her directorial debut.

'Visually it is very interesting, there are good scenic views and there is excellent hospitality.

'The Film Commission has been very helpful, has helped us see the right places and speak to the right people and it wants to be more involved in productions like this.'

The cast includes Alexandra Weaver, who has appeared in *Holby City*, David House, who appeared in *Vera Drake*, and Kimberly Jaraj, who was in *Wimbledon* and is filming *Casanova*.



Signs in Spanish will be put up at the airport when a film company uses it as a location for an anti-drug-smuggling film. (Picture by Adrian Miller, 0145447)

Also starring are Marta Barrio and Philip Delancy, who was in Star Wars Episode I, The Phantom Menace and the 2002 Only Fools and Horses Christmas special.

The company, which has sponsorship from a charity for the anti-drug-smuggling film, is set to shoot here from 4 to 6 July. As well as scenic shots at Cobo, the airport will double as both a London and Costa Rican one – meaning that some signs will have to be changed to Spanish.

'They liked Guernsey because of the airport itself,' said film commissioner Tony Brassell.

'They wanted something that looked like an international airport and somewhere close to London and where the hosts would be friendly and accommodating.'

Mr Brassell said that this was a very serious venture.

The production team had paid a visit to check the various locations.

He said that the commission was part of the international collective which meant that it was in all the global directories. It could not give any financial incentives, unlike its counterparts in the Isle of Man and Jersey, but it could help the production team through setting up contacts and locations.

It will be the third international production to be filmed here this year, following a German crew, which was in the island last week, and the makers of Sunstroke, who were here earlier in the month.

Mr Brassell said that the money spent by the crew, the potential use of the island by other production companies and the possible increase in tourism were all economic benefits to be gained from filming in Guernsey.

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