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CONTACT:

Shooting Star Enterprises

Doug & Marna Jean Davis

shootingstarhist@sbcglobal.net

580-825-3374

RR. 1 Box 8

Hitchcock, OK 73744

Shooting Star Parasols in the Movies Again

Hitchcock, OK, April 23, 2007 - Shooting Star Enterprises has just completed a large order of parasols for the upcoming movie *Bolden!*, which is currently filming on location in New Orleans and North Carolina and is the third major motion picture in which the local company's wares have been featured. Set in 1905, *Bolden!* is based on the life of Buddy Bolden, one of the Fathers of American Jazz.

"The film crew needed 200 parasols for a park scene, but with my current sewing demands, we would have been lucky to be able to produce 30 in the time they needed them," said Marna Jean, Shooting Star's seamstress. The producer of the film wanted small parasols that would have been popular in 1905; this meant delicate and feminine-looking parasols with longer handles. Assistant Property Master for *Bolden!*, Romain Gataeu, sent emails of the shape that he was searching for and the Shooting Star team knew they were the ones for the job, as they'd created the same shape for the award-winning film *Cold Mountain*. "The production schedule we were given would have been impossible, if we wouldn't have found some talented assistance. After doing some inquiry, we found Sandra Haffey in Okeene who was capable of sewing tops to our specifications. We contacted the production company and told them we could make the 50 they had asked for. After quoting them a price, the *Bolden!* team asked if we would be willing to do 70 total parasols."

Unwilling to back down from such a wonderful challenge, the Shooting Star team accepted. The job was enormous, but they were confident it could be done. The production crew sent Marna Jean a color chart, and she found samples in her extensive fabric collection before going on the hunt for additional fabrics within the color palette. Fifteen sheets of samples later, the *Bolden!* crew had chosen 70 parasol samples. Marna Jean pulled five parasols in her personal collection that were from the correct time frame, so her husband and business partner, Doug, could duplicate the handles. Then everyone went to work. "I cut out tops, and Sandra kept right up with everything I gave her. In the meantime, Doug created handles. Once we had the tops and handles ready, I put the parasols together and decorated them by adding lace, fringe, etc." explained Marna Jean. All their hard work paid off, as the company was thrilled with the results. Romain Gataeu wrote to Shooting Star Enterprises, "Thank you! The parasols look great! Look forward to seeing more." And Jessica, the *Bolden!* props assistant commented, "The parasols that came in last week looked so beautiful. I unpacked the box and showed anyone walking down the hall! Thank you, thank you! You are the best parasol maker in the world!"

This spring and summer are shaping up to be a very busy one for Shooting Star Enterprises. In addition to working on props for *Bolden!*, they are also scheduled to perform as Annie Oakley and Frank Butler on May 10-12 at the Flying W Guest Ranch's Centennial Land Run. Then on May 19th at their home/museum in

Hitchcock, they will host a reception and exhibit of Marna Jean's collection of antique Victorian and Edwardian working dresses. Rounding out the month of May, Marna Jean and Doug will attend the Chuck Wagon Festival at the Cowboy Hall of Fame on May 26-27. In June and July, they will host an Edwardian Girls Day Camp at their home, as well as travel the area to perform for the Pawnee Bill Wild West Days, the Blaine County 4-H youth and Watonga Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

ABOUT SHOOTING STAR ENTERPRISES - Shooting Star Enterprises Historical Clothing and Living History is located one mile east of Hitchcock on Highway 8. In addition to *Bolden!*, their parasols have been featured in the films *The Return of Zorro* and *Cold Mountain*. To learn more about Shooting Star Enterprises, visit www.shootingstarhistory.com or call 580-825-3374.

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