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### 'A Star Role for Kennedy Space Center'

From: **The Dr. Carl Sagan Honorary Site**  
Date: Thu, 26 Dec 1996 12:42:14 -0500  
Fwd Date: Thu, 26 Dec 1996 12:42:14 -0500  
Subject: 'A Star Role for Kennedy Space Center'

<http://wwwms.utexas.edu/~mrapp/sagan/FloridaT.html>

A Star Role for Kennedy Space Center

Breuse Hickman

November 5, 1996  
Florida Today

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - Tom Hanks and Jodie Foster have stars in their eyes, and they're looking toward Kennedy Space Center.

Both actors-turned-executive producers are shooting projects dealing with outer space, and they'll be using Brevard County as a backdrop for at least a portion of their works.

Foster is scheduled to begin shooting the feature film "Contact" in January or February, and may require the use of 2,000 extras. The Warner Brothers production has already scheduled filming of launches at KSC - including the Nov. 15 launch of the shuttle Columbia.

"Contact," based on Carl Sagan's novel, features the Oscar-winning Foster as a researcher who finds an intelligible radio signal emanating from a distant star.

According to wire reports, "Contact" will be shot in New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Los Angeles and Washington D.C., as well as in Brevard County.

Hanks also is expected to begin filming for his multi-part HBO series, "From Earth to the Moon," beginning in February, but dates are tentative.

"They (HBO Productions) are looking at locations and are obviously looking a lot at Kennedy Space Center," said Bonnie King, Space Coast Film commissioner.

King has played a key role in securing Brevard locations for the filming of several productions. The TV show "The Cape" airs Fridays on WKCF-Channel 18 and is currently filming in the area. Cocoa Beach was a backdrop for the filming of Nickelodeon's "The Mysteries of Shelby Woo" in December 1995. And, portions of the feature film "Marvin's Room," starring Meryl Streep and Robert DeNiro, were shot in Rockledge in October 1995. The film is scheduled to open nationally Dec. 25.

King says it's likely Foster and Hanks will shoot at various spots around the county. Filmmakers have been attracted to the Space Coast by its local landmarks and historical areas.

For "Contact," about 300 local extras have been rounded up to stand and watch the next shuttle launch, now scheduled for Nov. 15.

Ellen Jacoby, casting director for "Contact," said 2,000 extras will probably be needed when the brunt of the production is shot early next year.

"I think we could find that many people (here in Brevard) who would want to be in the film," said King. "It would be fun. The whole town could close down and we could all go watch a shuttle launch."

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