

'Salmonberries'

Feature film to be produced in Kotzebue

The Alaska Division of Tourism Film Office announced last week that Pelemele Pictures has committed to producing a \$3 million feature film in Kotzebue beginning this October.

The film, "Salmonberries," will star singer K.D. Lang and is being directed by Percy Adlon, who is widely known for his work on "Bagdad Cafe."

Mary Pignalberi, coordinator for the Division of Tourism Film Office, made the announcement after confirming with Adlon that filming will begin Oct. 10.

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"1990 has been a big year for feature film production in Alaska," says Pignalberi.

It is estimated that "Salmonberries" will have a \$1.5 million economic impact on Kotzebue. The entire movie will be filmed on location in Kotzebue with the exception of one segment which will be filmed in Germany near the Berlin Wall.

Filming will continue through Nov. 17. The movie will cast as many as 100 local extras.

"Salmonberries" is the story of a young woman who was abandoned at birth and returns to Kotzebue in search of her roots. Her only clue about her heritage is the name Kotzebue that was written on the box in which she was abandoned.

Some members of the 45-person crew were in Kotzebue recently, to scout for extras. The crew is expected to return Sept. 20 to begin pre-production.

The Film Office has been assisting Adlon and Pelemele Pictures for the past few months with location logistics, crew referrals and coordination with Kotzebue-based agencies.