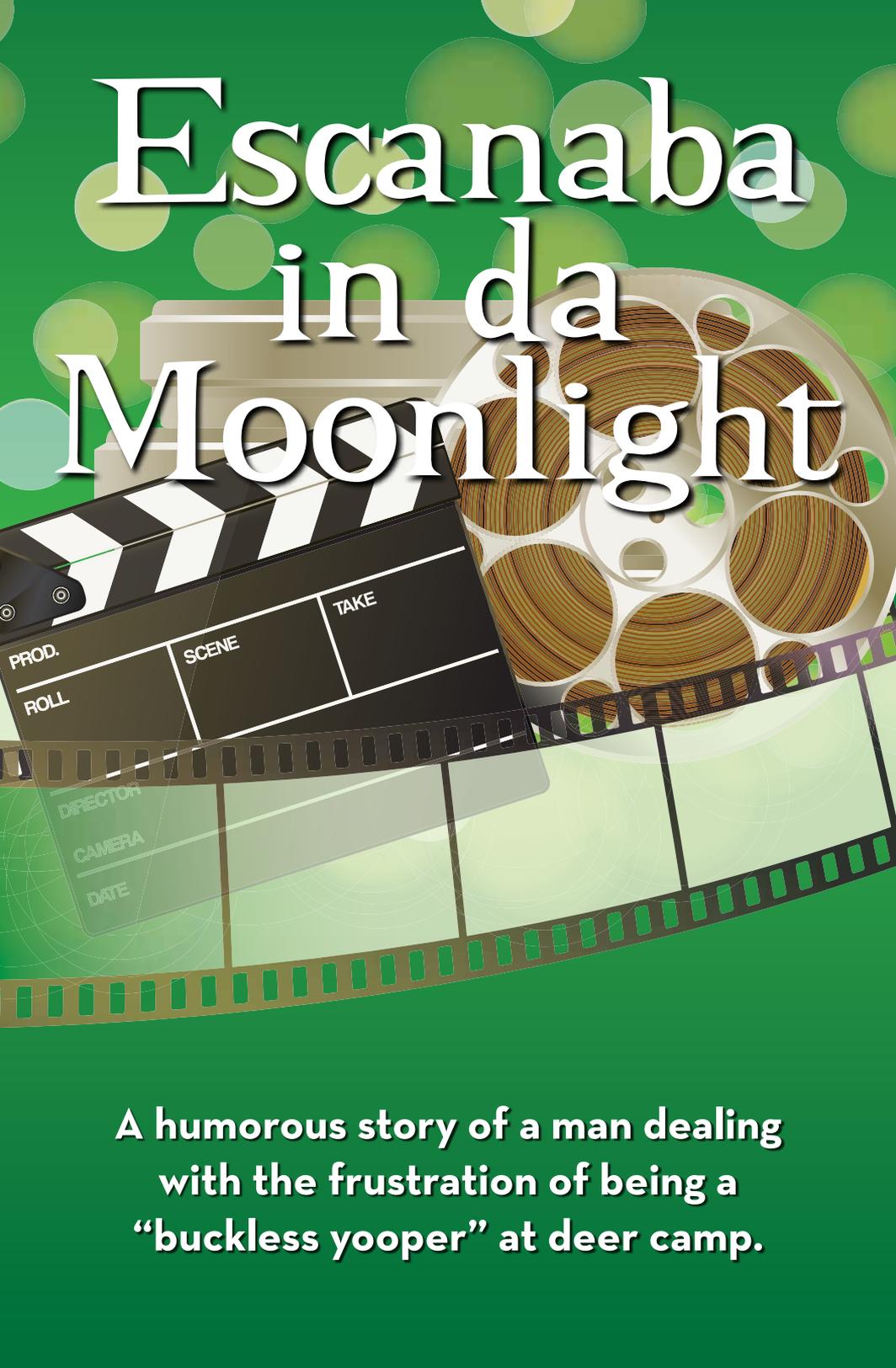
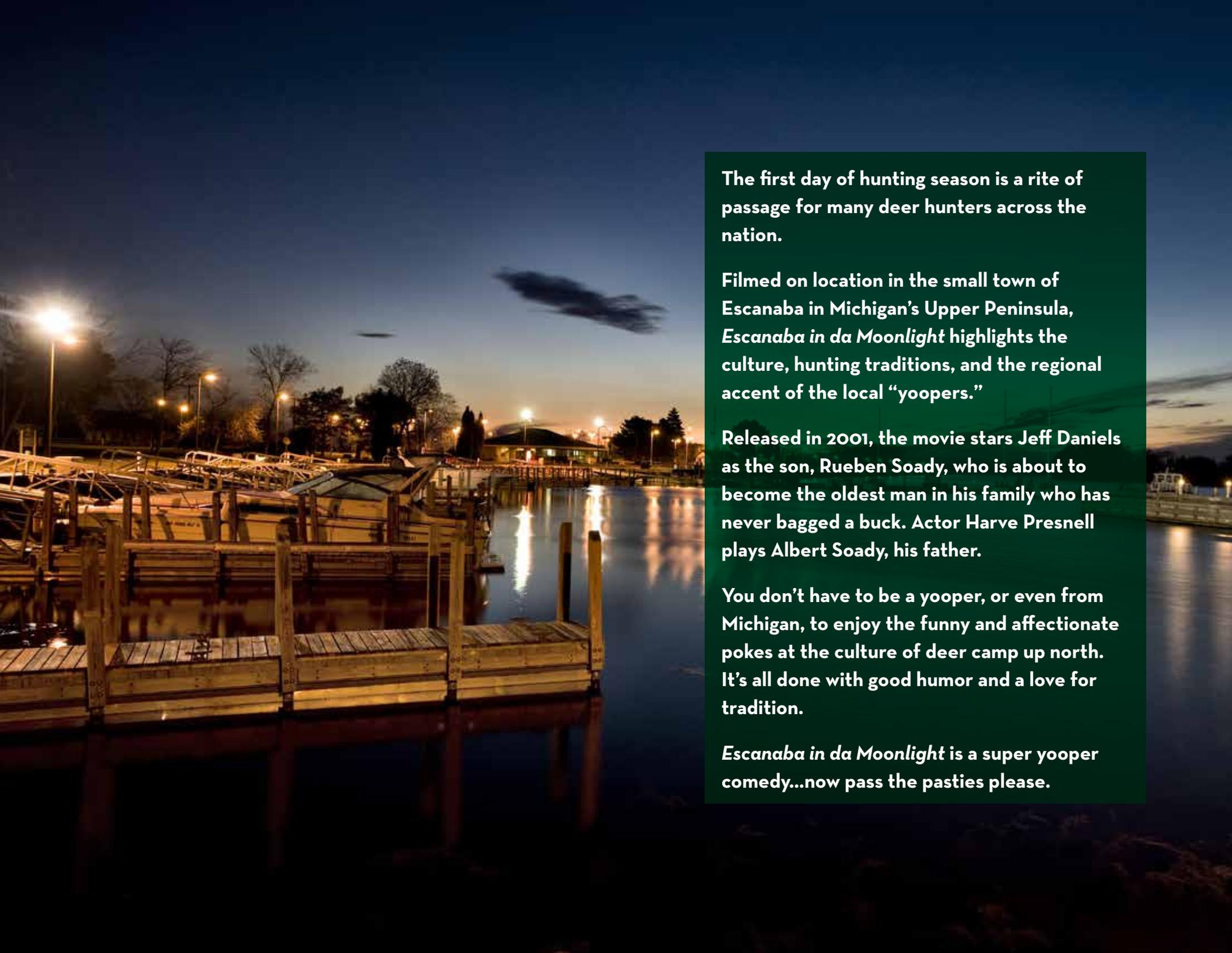


# Escanaba in da Moonlight

The background features a green gradient with circular bokeh patterns. In the center, there is a large, stylized illustration of a film reel. In the foreground, a clapperboard is tilted, showing fields for PROD., ROLL, SCENE, TAKE, DIRECTOR, CAMERA, and DATE. A film strip with sprocket holes curves across the bottom of the reel.

**A humorous story of a man dealing with the frustration of being a “buckless yooper” at deer camp.**



**The first day of hunting season is a rite of passage for many deer hunters across the nation.**

**Filmed on location in the small town of Escanaba in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* highlights the culture, hunting traditions, and the regional accent of the local "yoopers."**

**Released in 2001, the movie stars Jeff Daniels as the son, Rueben Soady, who is about to become the oldest man in his family who has never bagged a buck. Actor Harve Presnell plays Albert Soady, his father.**

**You don't have to be a yooper, or even from Michigan, to enjoy the funny and affectionate pokes at the culture of deer camp up north. It's all done with good humor and a love for tradition.**

***Escanaba in da Moonlight* is a super yooper comedy...now pass the pasties please.**



### **Rosy's Diner**

**1313 Ludington Street, Escanaba**

All great small towns have a Main Street and a little diner. And the small town of Escanaba, Michigan, is no exception. This local staple has been in business for over 70 years and is a popular local gathering spot.

Producers from the movie had been eating here while in town and then one day they asked the owner, Rosy, if they could use the diner as a backdrop in the film and her as an extra.

Producers and film star, Jeff Daniels, loved the look of the vintage diner so much, they decided to use it just as it was. Look for Rosy pouring the coffee at Rosy's Diner in the film.



### **Swallow Inn**

**10468 South Main Street, Rapid River**

The yoooper atmosphere of the Swallow Inn is what sold producers on the idea of using it in the film. For generations, the Swallow Inn, a Rapid River bar and grill, has given people in the area a place to gather. Originally, it was a boarding house built in the 1890s. Today the up-north bar draws locals and tourists alike for the popular Friday night fish fry.

In the film, however, the Swallow Inn is referred to as the "Porcelain Bus." The famous dancing scene in *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* was shot at the Swallow Inn.

Three local bartenders were used as extras as well as dozens of local residents. The bar's interior remained virtually unchanged in the movie.

Jeff Daniels was particularly fond of the ambiance of the century old building and the antique telephone booth inside the bar. The woodwork and the deer heads on the wall all added to the yoooper feel they were seeking. What would a movie about deer camp be without featuring a bar anyway?



### **William Bonifas Fine Arts Center**

**700 First Avenue South, Escanaba**

Casting calls with locals were auditioned here. This is the same location where Jeff Daniels hosted his own "Backstage with Jeff Daniels," where he spent hours signing autographs and posing for pictures with hundreds of people.

Several hundred yoopers showed up, paying \$25 each with all proceeds from this event donated back to the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center.

### **Former Racquetball Club**

**North 26th Street, Escanaba**

The production company used this building as the sound stage and studio for the film. It was here that they identically recreated the interior of the cabin of local residents, Einie and Gladys Bittner. Exterior shots of the Bittner cabin were actually filmed at the Bittner's real cabin in the woods near Rapid River.

What drew producers to pick the couple's cabin as the one in the film? Producer Bob Brown stated, "It was perfect. The cabin was an extension of the people in Escanaba. It had everything."

Roads had to be plowed to get the sound and camera equipment to the sight of the real cabin. Other roads had to be shut down to keep locals from interfering with filming and to keep out snowmobilers that would roar through on their sleds.

The cabin was originally just an eating shack for loggers more than 50 years ago. After the filming had finished, the Bittner's planned to add another addition to the now famous "cabin in the woods."

### **Escanaba High School Athletic Field Lake Shore Drive/18th Avenue South, Escanaba**

Nearly 1,000 people braved freezing temperatures when they joined the outdoor crowd scene filmed at the Escanaba High School Athletic Field one day in March. Each person was charged \$2, with the money donated to the school's athletic budget.

### **Bowl-A-Rama**

**2510 1st Avenue North #1, Escanaba**

Thirty members of the cast and crew of *Escanaba in da Moonlight* joined hundreds of local residents in a charity bowl for Big Brothers/Big Sisters on a Saturday night in March at the Bowl-A-Rama bowling center. Everyone had so much fun, and the cast and crew even took the time for photographs and autographs during the benefit. They raised just under \$1,000 for the charity with a total of about 820 people participating on 164 teams. In addition to open bowling, offered seven days a week, Bowl-A-Rama hosts all kinds of fun events and tournaments all year-round.



**Island Resort & Casino**  
**W399 US-2, Harris**

The Upper Peninsula premier of *Escañaba in da Moonlight* took place at the Island Resort & Casino showroom. Featuring headline acts, this 1,300-seat, theater-style showroom, hosts some of the biggest names in entertainment. This casino was nominated as one of the five finalists for the 46th Academy of Country Music Awards in the “Industry Award” category of Casino of the Year in 2011.

Of course, the casino has gaming, a hotel, spa, and several restaurants. It’s a top place for entertainment in the Escanaba area.



**Downtown Escanaba**  
**8th Street and Ludington Street**

This is where the scene of the school bus full of local school children drives past Jeff Daniels (Rueben Soady) as the kids taunt him because he hasn’t bagged a buck yet.

Over 1,000 local residents withstood zero-degree temperatures for five hours outside in order to film the crowd taunting scenes with Daniels. Ludington Street is the main thoroughfare that runs directly through downtown.

Many scenes in the movie were filmed right on Ludington Street. Visitors to the area will find an abundance of restaurants, shopping opportunities and more.

**Hereford & Hops Steakhouse and Brewpub**  
**624 Ludington Street, Escanaba**

The “Brown Derby of Hollywood” right here in Escanaba? Well, sort of. Jeff Daniels and his co-stars were spotted dining at this local establishment several times during the month they were filming in Escanaba.

Hereford & Hops opened in downtown Escanaba on the first floor of an historic 1914, five-story former hotel. The restored building has two dining rooms, a pub and two brick open grills. The brick fireplace, tall windows and exposed brick walls give this steakhouse a unique, old-world charm. The micro-brewery supplies the bar with seven menu beers and three seasonal beers that are always on tap. As Daniels exclaimed, “They’ve got some top-notch beer.”

**Dobber’s Pasties**  
**827 North Lincoln Road, Escanaba**

If you haven’t eaten a pasty before, you are missing something delicious. Pasties are the staple food of the Upper Peninsula. Production and crew members, and even Jeff Daniels, spent time here while in Escanaba.

Daniels still orders pasties from Dobber’s and has them shipped to his theater, the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan, whenever they are performing his play, *Escañaba in da Moonlight*.

And now for a little pasty history: A traditional pasty (pronounced liked “nasty”) has beef, potatoes, onion, rutabaga, and turnip, baked inside a golden crust. It’s really a handheld meat pie. The Cornish miners, from Cornwall, England, known as “Cousin Jacks” and their wives, or “Cousin Jennys,” brought the pasty to the Upper Peninsula in the early 1850s when the copper and iron mines opened. Miners reheated their pasties underground; others kept them at body temperature in a chest pocket. Others set their pasties on a mining

shovel and held them above head-lamp candles until warmed. Go ahead, have a pasty. Just remember, no self-respecting yoooper will put gravy on a pasty. It’s ketchup only!

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

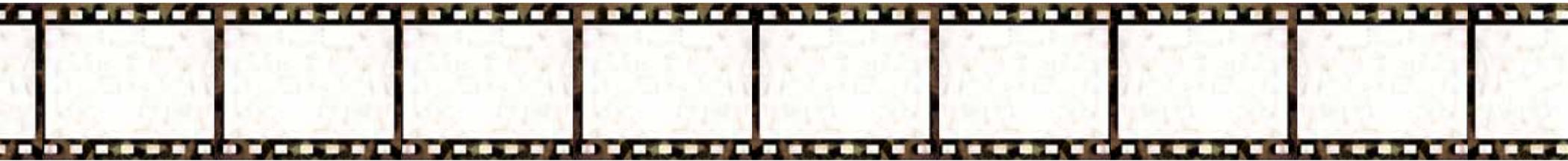
**Kitch-iti-kipi (also known as the Big Spring)**

**Palms Book State Park, Manistique**  
 One of the Upper Peninsula’s major attractions, Kitch-iti-Kipi, is located 12 miles west of Manistique at Palms Book State Park. Enjoy riding the self-propelled observation raft to view the wonders of the Big Spring. The spring is 45 feet deep and 200 feet across.

Water temperature remains constant at 45 degrees and is crystal clear. Visitors will be awed by the view of large brown trout, strange formations and the sight of 16,000 gallons of water per minute “erupting” from the depths. Named the “Mirror of Heaven” by the early Indians, this place is a hidden gem of the Upper Peninsula and a must-see. [www.exploringthenorth.com/bigspring](http://www.exploringthenorth.com/bigspring)

**Butterfly Migration**  
**Stonington Peninsula near Bay de Noc**

The Stonington Peninsula and the cedar trees and lands surrounding the Peninsula Point Lighthouse, becomes the stopping-off-point for thousands of monarch butterflies in late summer and early fall. The beautiful monarchs migrate more than 1,900 miles from northern climates to regions near Mexico City each winter.



The butterflies gather at the peninsula for their flights across the open waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay on their way south. During the evening, butterflies generally roost in the Peninsula Point's cedar trees for protection from the elements and from birds. Monarchs become active as the sun warms them. They use winds following a cool front to help them make the trek across open water to Wisconsin's Door Peninsula.

Hundreds of butterfly fans gather to see the Monarchs come through. The best month is August, but migration continues throughout September when the peninsula's hardwoods begin their annual fall changeover.

**Sand Point Lighthouse**  
*Ludington Park on Lake Michigan, Escanaba*

This historical Michigan lighthouse is fully restored and has a Fresnel fourth-class lens still residing at the top of the tower.

Mary Terry was one of the first women lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes. I bet she would feel right at home in the fully

furnished and restored lighthouse if she visited today. Rumors abound that decades after her death she occasionally makes an appearance to check on the lighthouse. Today, visitors can tour the lighthouse and climb the tower.

[www.exploringthenorth.com/sandpoint](http://www.exploringthenorth.com/sandpoint)

**Fayette Ghost Town**  
*Garden Peninsula, Fayette*

Nestled in a picturesque harbor in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, this former bustling company town is at the tip of the Garden Peninsula. You can tour this historic site on your own or take a 45-minute guided tour.

Well-preserved buildings have been standing for nearly 150 years. Beautiful stone buildings with archways stand majestically against the sparkling blue waters of Lake Michigan.

Pig iron was once made here, but the townsite shut down in the late 1800s. It's all now part of a beautiful state park. Make sure you check out the onsite museum as well as the wonderful walking trails.

**Iron Mountain Iron Mine Tour**  
*W4852 Highway, US-2, Vulcan*  
Just 45 miles west of Escanaba is the historic Iron Mountain Underground Iron Mine Tour. This world-famous attraction has been owned by the same family since 1958.

You travel 2,600 feet on a tram through drifts and tunnels to 400 feet below the earth's surface. See amazing rock formations and large underground lighted caverns. This mine operated for 68 years and produced 21,625,000 tons of iron ore for the great steel mills of the Midwest. It's a phenomenal tour.  
[www.ironmountainironmine.com](http://www.ironmountainironmine.com)

**Hiking Tour**  
*Rapid River*  
Grab your hiking boots! The Haymeadow Creek tour takes you through the Hiawatha National Forest. Take the quarter-mile hiking trail that winds along Haymeadow Creek.

On county-road 509, the fall colors are spectacular. For a tremendous view of the Whitefish Basin, turn left on Forest Road 2236-38th Road to US-41.

On the way back, stop at the Rapid River Falls Park and sit back, relax and just watch the waterfall.

**Stonehouse Restaurant & Lounge**  
*2223 Ludington Street, Escanaba*

Jeff Daniels and his co-stars were particularly fond of this local dining establishment. They gathered here frequently on their time off from filming.

This local favorite has been voted the best restaurant in the county for 30 years! Check out their Carport Lounge too.

**Swedish Pantry**  
*819 Ludington Street, #1, Escanaba*  
A taste of Sweden in the Upper Peninsula. Located in downtown Escanaba, Swedish Pantry is famous for their authentic Swedish pancakes with lingonberries. Gifts, Swedish musical clocks, collectable figurines and unique gift items are available for purchase.



Escanaba Harbor

## DID YOU KNOW?



**The movie was filmed entirely on location in Escanaba and the surrounding area in 30 days during the month of March. Brrr! What a cold time to be filming in the U.P.**

The bus full of kids in the movie were all local Escanaba school children.

**Jeff Daniels founded a theater in his hometown of Chelsea, Michigan, called the Purple Rose. Co-stars in the movie, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, were also actors from his Purple Rose Theatre.**

Jeff Daniels married his college sweetheart, a fellow Michigander from Marquette in the Upper Peninsula (Kathleen Rosemary Treado). The couple lives in Chelsea.

**Kathleen Treado became the new Mrs. Jeff Daniels one Friday the 13th in 1979. Wondering why on earth someone would get married on Friday the 13th? That's because Daniels wore the No. 13 on his baseball shirt.**

Jeff Daniels has a musical side too. He has written over 400 songs, plays guitar and travels across the country with his son's band, The Ben Daniels Band.

**Had he not gone into acting, Jeff Daniels would likely be working in Chelsea, with his siblings at the Chelsea Lumber Company, owned by the Daniels' family. The Chelsea Lumber Co. provided all the building materials for**

**the construction of his Purple Rose Theatre.**

Jeff Daniels stayed (slept) in his camper trailer in the parking lot of the production office in Escanaba for the duration of the film.

**Jeff Daniels says that no one in Hollywood wanted to fund a movie set in a Michigan deer camp, so he went out and raised \$1.5 million from people in Michigan. Many of the investors were people who saw *Escanaba in da Moonlight* performed as a play at Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre or at the Gem Theatre in Detroit, where it holds the record as the longest-running play in Detroit history.**

Most of Jeff Daniels' film was shot in Escanaba, using a lot of locals. The music is scored by Alto Reed, the sax player from Bob Seeger's Silver Bullet Band. Ted Nugent supplied props for the hunting camp. *Escanaba in da Moonlight* premiered for a sell-out crowd on October 22, 2000, at Detroit's Fox Theatre.

**Jeff Daniels then took the film to Escanaba on October 29, for two more sell-out shows at the biggest space in the area, the Island Resort & Casino on the Bark River.**



It is estimated that Escanaba's local economy benefited \$1 million from the filming of *Escanaba In da Moonlight*. That money came from the crew and production company that stayed in the area hotels, restaurants, shops, etc.

**It took a production crew of 55 people, filming six days a week, 12 hours a day, during the month of March, to film *Escanaba In da Moonlight*.**

A local production assistant stated, "Jeff was a delight to work with. Repeatedly without fuss, Jeff Daniels would patiently take time to speak with eager locals who wanted their minute to talk to him and bask in the glow of a true Hollywood star. Locals even wandered into the production office a couple times solely for this purpose. He had a great rapport with the cast and crew.

**Jeff Daniels' three children were also cast in the film. Son, Ben, was the "Buckless" sign holder. His other son, Lucas, and daughter, Nellie, were school children on the school bus that taunted the Jeff Daniels character and his character's daughter.**

At one point, with hair dye in, Jeff Daniels walked past a young female production assistant who was busy burning out a copy machine and said, "Glamour, glamour, glamour!"



The Michigan Film and Digital Media Office (MFDMO) was created in 1979 to assist and attract incoming production companies and to promote the growth of Michigan's indigenous industry. Since its inception, the MFDMO commissioner has been responsible for implementing a program that lives within the parameters of Michigan law and works to ensure the program runs efficiently and effectively. Today, the MFDMO is working diligently to guarantee the film and digital media program accomplishes key results of private investment and workforce development by encouraging high wages, high-tech jobs and talent retention.

*Escanaba in da Moonlight tour is the sole property of the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office.  
Special thanks to Janet Kasic of Circle Michigan for content creation.*

mfo@michigan.org ■ tel 800 477 3456 ■ fax 517 241 3689 ■ MichiganFilmOffice.org