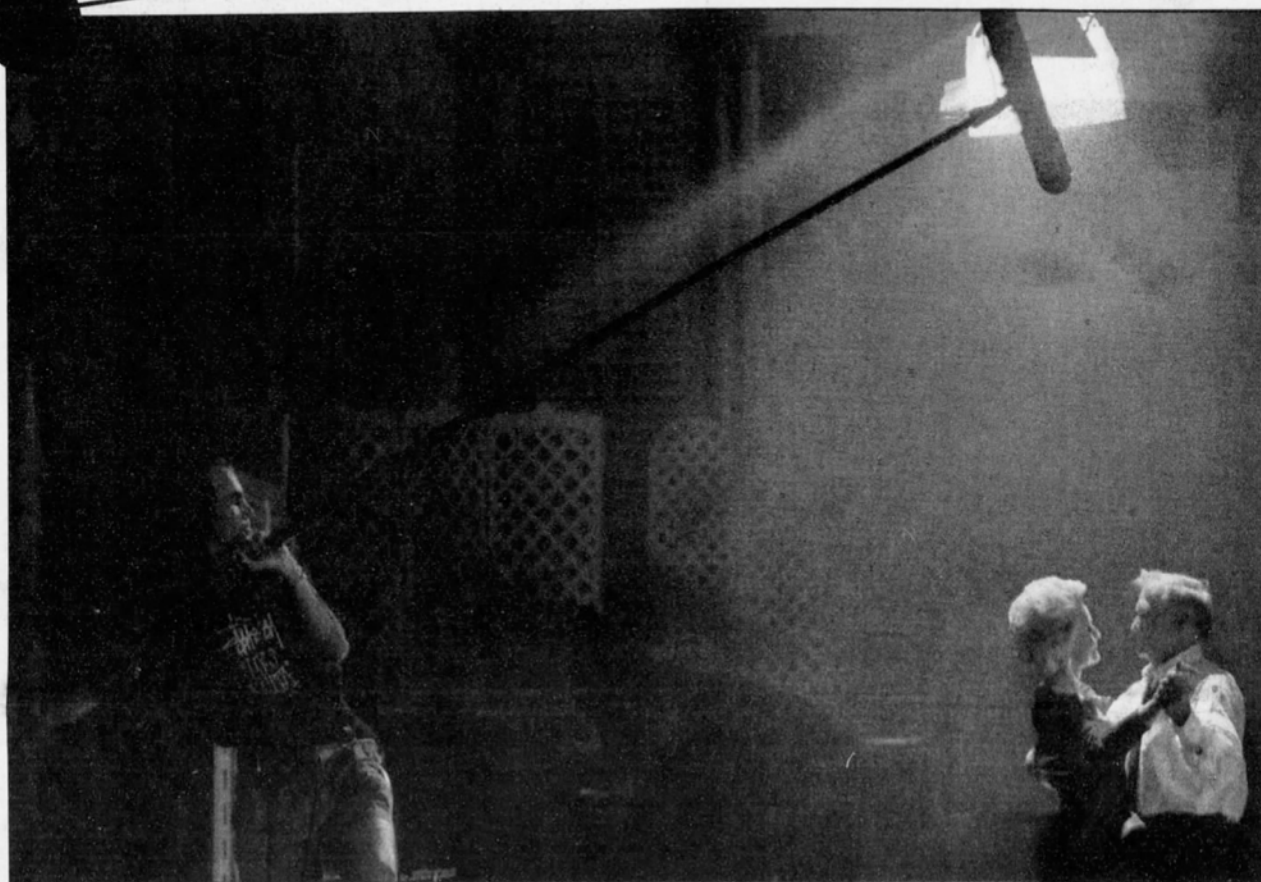


ACCENT

INSIDE IN LIVING: WELLINGTON, ROYAL PALM BEACH, LOXAHATCHEE AND LAKE COMMUNITIES

PALM BEACH COUNTY:

on the set



SCOTT WISEMAN/Staff Photographer

John Glafcke holds a boom mike as Dina Merrill and Rod Taylor dance while filming a scene at the Boca Raton Resort and Club for the movie *Shattered Trust*.

By MICHAEL MILLS
Palm Beach Post Film Writer

BOCA RATON — To judge from the commotion, preparations for a big party of some sort are under way at the Boca Raton Resort and Club this warm fall afternoon. The employee parking lot is a sea of cars, trucks and vans, and there's a steady stream of people in and out of the service entrance.

Inside, the Addison Mizner-designed Cathedral Room, with its high, arched ceiling and rows of huge pillars, has been transformed into a ballroom. At one end is a piano and a small area for a band. Large potted palms dot the edges of the room, tables are set as if for a special dinner, space is reserved for a dance floor.

But the people bustling in and out of this makeshift ballroom aren't



Shattered Trust producer Jonathan Krane also produced the *Look Who's Talking* film series.

resort personnel. They're a movie crew, on location for *Shattered Trust*, a low-budget independent feature being shot largely in Palm Beach County.

Shattered Trust (the tentative title) is the latest project for Jonathan Krane, a sometime South Florida resident who wears several hats: producer, husband of actress Sally Kellerman, manager of John Travolta and, as of *Shattered Trust*, screenwriter.

"It's a story about the corruption of great wealth, specifically about the self-destruction of a family over money," says Krane, who's probably best known for producing the *Look Who's Talking* series and working with director Blake Edwards on a handful of pictures. His stars this

Please see SHATTERED TRUST/4D

SHATTERED TRUST

From 1D

time include veteran performers Rod Taylor and Dina Merrill and relative newcomers Rick Johnson, Ann Cusack (sister of Joan and John) and Rebecca Broussard (mother of Jack Nicholson's children).

"Since it's about great wealth, it's appropriate that we film here," Krane says, though the story is set in South Carolina, not South Florida.

"I felt that Palm Beach (County) was really pregnant with possibilities from a filmmaker's point of view, because of all the different looks, different kinds of architecture and neighborhoods. All that's proved to be true. We had to shoot a little bit in Las Vegas, but basically we've shot the entire movie, exteriors and interiors, in Palm Beach, and we did it very inexpensively."

Shattered Trust, which Krane says will cost a modest \$5 million to \$7 million, is the first of a series of features the writer-producer plans to make in the region — up to six a year, with two crews culled mostly from area technicians.



Martini

Working weekends

Krane and company's 25- to 30-day shooting schedule has had them working long days Wednesday through Sunday. "We work weekends because that's when people are off and buildings are empty," says Krane, who prefers to film in existing locations rather than build sets.

Today, the company is preparing to shoot a short scene at the end of the picture. The family's patriarch and matriarch, portrayed by Taylor and Merrill, are to take a brief spin on the otherwise-empty dance floor, and then the scene will dissolve to show the ballroom full of couples dancing and sitting at tables.

"Hello, my extras, I'm your director," Richard Martini says to several dozen Palm Beach County locals who have been hired for the scene and sit waiting in an adjacent room. Decked out in elegant evening wear, the mostly older extras listen attentively, not yet realizing it'll be hours before they're used.

"I want you to think of a particular evening — say, a Thanksgiving evening when you went out dancing," director Martini says, then leaves them to their mood-making while he shoots the beginning of the scene next door.

A woman on the other side of the ballroom has been playing piano, and Martini calls out, "Once again, Mom." He's not joking. The Chicago-born director has brought in his parents, who used to bring him to Deerfield Beach for summer vacations, to be extras in the movie. His mother, a concert pianist, also is recording music to be played back while the scene is shot.

"I figured, since Scorsese has his parents in every movie, it's about time I had mine come down," Martini says with a laugh.

Martini, who also directed *You Can't Hurry Love* and *Limit Up* for Krane and spent a few years working for writer Robert Towne, says he shares Krane's enthusiasm for shooting in South Florida. "The locations are gorgeous, and it's stuff we haven't seen before. L.A.'s been shot to death. We shot up at the Jupiter lighthouse — what a terrific location."

Reunion of stars

Finally, the two main stars of *Shattered Trust* arrive on the set. They have no entourage of "handlers," and no star atti-

tude. Nor do Rod Taylor and Dina Merrill withdraw to a quiet corner to psyche themselves into character. Instead, they mingle with the crew.

Taylor, whose more than three dozen feature credits include *Giant*, *The Time Machine* and *The Birds*, sits at a table and announces that he's ready to move to South Florida.

"I'm not a desert rat," says the Sydney, Australia, native, who sounds more Aussie than ever, "but I had a second house in Palm Springs, which is this weather without the humidity. I'd rather have this weather and the lovely tropical foliage, so I'll look around. Maybe I'll kick Donald Trump out of that house of Dina's and move in," he says with a cackle. He's referring to Mar-a-Lago, where Merrill, youngest daughter of E.F. Hutton and Marjorie Merriweather Post, grew up.

A fuzzy yellow caterpillar seems to appear out of nowhere. "See, now that's an omen," Taylor declares. "That little caterpillar came out of the jungle and is crawling up my finger, saying, 'Come and live in Boca Raton.'"

While Taylor wanders off to prepare for his on-camera entrance, Merrill watches affectionately and says, "It's fun to work with Rod again. We haven't worked together for 10 years."

The first time, she recalls, was a guest appearance on one of Taylor's TV series. "They started at the crack of dawn, so I arrived at 7:30 ready to rehearse. And it was, 'Miss Merrill, this is Mr. Taylor.' 'How do you do?' 'Nice to meet you.'"

"OK, we're shooting a love scene. Would you mind getting in bed? It's true! By lunch we knew each other pretty well."

Like Taylor, Merrill finds *Shattered Trust* appealing because it's a rare big-screen love story involving a sixties-something couple. "It's a romantic part, in a way, and when you get to a certain stage in life, women are not generally cast in that kind of thing in a motion picture."

The trip to South Florida for the film was a sort of homecoming for Merrill, who still has a small apartment in Palm Beach with husband and business partner Ted Hartley, with whom she is resurrecting the RKO Pictures studio.

"I drove by this morning on the way in," Merrill says of Mar-a-Lago, where she spent much of her childhood. "It was a very happy childhood in a magical place." But the Hutton-Post heiress is also candid when asked what she thinks of Trump's plans for the place. She says she's "a bit upset that a single-family residence is being turned into a club, which I don't think is right. What's that going to do to the neighborhood? I think the town council ought to shape up and stop it."

Going for the final take

Merrill and Taylor take their places to film their simple but emotional scene. The actors run through a couple of rehearsals; a special effects technician creates a dreamy atmosphere by blowing smoke onto the set.

The cameras roll for a take, and Taylor slowly enters the ballroom, jacket in hand, and sits at a table. He seems weary and melancholy, and then he looks up to see Merrill, off-camera. His face lights up as he smiles and says, "I've missed you."

"I've missed you, my love. Dance with me," says Merrill, radiant in an electric-blue dress. Taylor moves to join her. They embrace and dance.

The scene is shot again and again, from different angles and in slightly different versions, until Martini is satisfied and says the magic words.

"Cut! Print!"

And *Shattered Trust* is one small step closer to completion.