

## FILM SHOOTING DRAWS CROWD OF 5,000 TO GARDEN EXTRAS WORK UP ENTHUSIASM JEERING 'TRAITOR' AYKROYD

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As head of Caravan Pictures, Roger Birnbaum has produced movies such as "Dead Presidents" and "Angels in the Outfield" and seen countless others. But even he had to laugh yesterday at the filming of "Celtic Pride" when an estimated 5,000 people showed up as extras to fill out the crowd in the fabled Boston Garden. Dan Aykroyd plays the role of a Charlestown plumber obsessed with the Celtics. As Birnbaum described the plot, when the Celtics reach the final game of the NBA championship, Aykroyd and his partner coax the opposing team's star player (Damon Wayans) to go out drinking. One thing leads to another and the two Celtics fanatics eventually kidnap Wayans and handcuff him to a bed.

The Utah Jazz star eventually breaks free, but promises not to squeal to the law if Aykroyd wears the visiting team's purple and yellow uniform to the game, not his beloved green and white.

Sure enough, a humiliated Aykroyd is picked at random to shoot a half-court shot during halftime and must show the hometown fans his new uniform.

Film directors were shooting that scene yesterday and did not have to spend much energy instructing the fans on how to react when Aykroyd appeared.

The boos started almost immediately and in unison right after Bob Cousy (who plays himself) hands Aykroyd the ball.

"Utah sucks," screamed one from the crowd.

"Traitor," yelled another.

The reaction and enthusiasm were better than Birnbaum expected.

"This is great," he said, predicting that Aykroyd would be so basketball-impaired he probably wouldn't hit the backboard.

Aykroyd didn't come close, but his clowning triggered a lot of laughter.

The film crew has been in town for the last eight days. The extras came to the Garden as early as 7 a.m. yesterday to play a part.

Brian Hovasse, 17, and his friend Danny Cormier, 16, asked Hovasse's mother to drive them in from Lynn. "I wanted to be a part," Hovasse said. "It was a good time."

Michelle DeFeo, a member of the Junior League of Boston, chaperoned a handful of children from Bridge Over Troubled Waters, a home for teen-agers. "Everyone is having a great time," DeFeo said. "This is a chance to be a part of something fun that ordinarily doesn't happen in Boston."

The extras weren't paid, but because the work is long, they were entertained by an Elvis impersonator and were eligible to win a number of door prizes, including a car, a big-screen television, a cruise and several promotional items such as autographed basketballs.

"It's a lot of fun," said Paul Carter of South Boston. "It's a chance to see actors making a movie."