

MGB Stars in Hollywood Movie

By Dick Lunney

Not since a black Austin-Healey was featured as Steve Martin's car in the *Father of the Bride* movies has a classic British sports car been featured in a major Hollywood movie. Now a red 1975 chrome bumper MGB is truly the star in a soon to be released feature film entitled *Sherman's Way* and the attendees at MG2008 were treated to a special "Premier" showing complete with an introduction and question/answer session with the film's director, Craig Saavedia. The organizers had hoped to show the movie



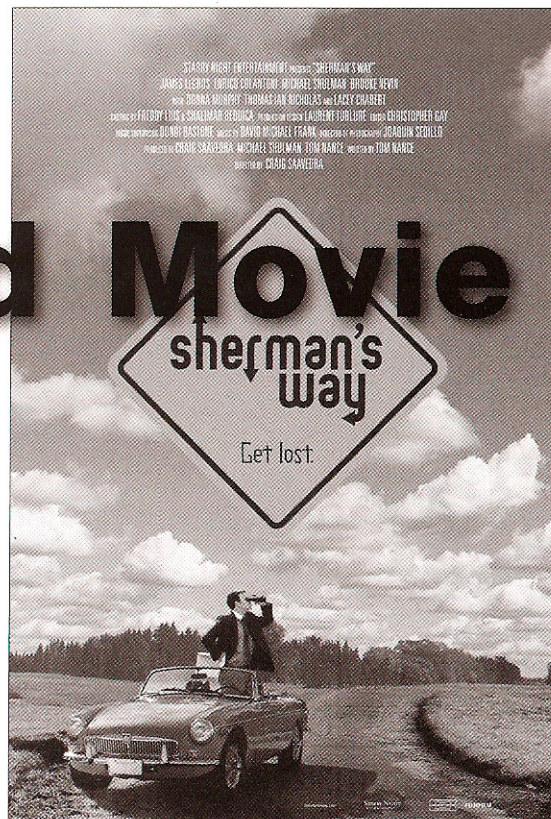
New Yorker Sherman Black (Michael Shulman) finds himself stranded on the West Coast and reliant on the good graces of washed-up athlete Palmer Van Dyke (James LeGros).

on a large outdoor screen in the hotel parking lot giving everyone a Drive-In movie experience, but threatening skies and nearby thunderstorms forced the showing inside.

This wonderfully entertaining movie has a Yale law student, Sherman Black, following his girlfriend out to the California Wine Country only to find himself dumped and cut off from his high-society mother's money. A stranger stranded in an alien land, Sherman finds himself hitching a ride with a washed-up, unapologetically eccentric former Olympic skier who happens to be driving a beat-up MGB. The journey holds many funny and unexpected detours along the way centering on the restoration of the MGB and the opportunity for Sherman

to learn several life lessons. This truly bittersweet comedy about absent fathers and damaged sons is for anyone who has ever strived to find balance between responsibility and recklessness.

The audience at MG2008 laughed and cried at all the appropriate places, but also got some extra laughs at the film's ability to have the cast complete a total restoration of the MGB in a long weekend and seemingly transform the chrome bumper car into a rubber bumper car then back into a chrome bumper car almost overnight. Mr. Saavedia stepped forward after the screening with some trepidation as the MG-oriented audience laughed at the ease in which the stars were able to remove the car's windshield, fix the body work and install a new interior. Now a proud owner of an MGB, in fact the donor car actually being restored in the movie, Mr. Saavedia admitted that



he now knows just how involved a total restoration can be. However, he is justifiably proud of the movie and how the MGB plays such an important role in the story. The overwhelming consensus of the audience was that *Sherman's Way* will be a "must have" movie for every MG enthusiast's DVD collection.

See the details and preview at <http://www.shermansway.com/>.



Behind the scenes with Michael Shulman (who portrays New Yorker Sherman Black) and James LeGros (as eccentric ex-Olympian Palmer, The Bomber Van Dyke) driving a "donor" MGB with a movie camera mounted on the bonnet.