

FINAL FIASCO: HOW BIG IS YOUR TRAILER? OF COURSE SIZE MATTERS IN HOLLYWOOD



“WITH MEASURING TAPES. THEY WENT OUT AND WERE MEASURING THEIR TRAILERS”

THESE FOLKS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR CAMP!

BY STEPHEN HUNT AND KATE TREMILLS

IT'S NO SECRET THAT SIZE HAS ALWAYS MATTERED IN HOLLYWOOD, NO MATTER WHAT THE SUBJECT—PAYCHECKS, BUDGETS OR BOOBS—SO DOES IT REALLY COME AS A SURPRISE THAT NOWHERE DOES SIZE MATTER MORE THAN WHEN IT COMES TO ON-SET DIGS?



One is never enough - trailers that is - for Eddie Murphy when he's on the set

Now, to the rest of the world, trailers are used for cheap camping, cheap living and drawing tornados to your doorstep. Not so in the movie world. Location trailers must serve as dressing rooms, offices and, more often than not, just plain resting places for actors to sit and grow progressively more anxious while waiting to shoot their scenes. When you work in a portable office, the size of the trailer represents the number of people kissing up to the boss.

Will Smith's trailer matters so much he brings his own—a behemoth rumored to be two stories high, with as many bedrooms as your basic suburban split-level.

For some, even that might be slumming it. “When Eddie Murphy was here for *I Spy*,” says a source, “I know for a fact that he had not one trailer but four. Whenever there was a company move, the teamsters would have to move these four trailers and arrange them in a square so that Eddie Murphy would have a private courtyard in-between the four trailers.” And it gets even more outrageous. According to the source, “(He’s) staying in a four-star hotel downtown. He gets shuttled out to this compound. It’s not like he’s living there. That’s just where he chills out during the day.”

Other stars really get into the trailer life. According to a source on the set of *For the Money*, “Matthew McConaughey has his own trailer. He was camping in it in various places in Vancouver. It was underneath the Lions Gate Bridge in Stanley Park for quite a while. He lives in it permanently. The whole shoot.”

Wonder what these interim homes are like? Star Waggon—the czar of location trailers in L.A.—offers 18 different varieties which range from the 40-foot-long Prestige (Plasma TV, separate bedroom, two matching leather recliners) to trailers for two, trailers for three and trailers for five (that come with porcelain flush toilets and indirect lighting) all the way down to the unfortunately named Stackables, little cubbyhole-looking trailers that stack on top of each other a lot like those cargo holds you see in freighters. At Star Waggon, they’ve done their best to make each type of trailer sound appealing on their website, but by the time they got to the Stackables, their imaginations must have been fried: The best they could come up with was that a Stackable met all fire regulations with its built-in sprinkler system.

Tough to resist that.

Stars, of course, are far removed from stackables. Size, you see, matters right down to the fraction of an inch. “I know two actresses that were fighting over how big their trailers were,” says another source. “With measuring tapes. They went out and were measuring their trailers. They got the Teamsters to measure their trailers. They were yelling at each other. Then they turned around and were yelling at the producers. The producers were measuring the width and saying, ‘But yours is wider.’ And one said, ‘What do you mean, hers is wider?’ It was awful.”

“NICK NOLTE LIKED TO WALK AROUND PRETTY MUCH NAKED WITH JUST A BATHROBE ON”

When you’re fighting a war of rank, the trailer becomes the central battleground. “On one show,” says a source, “there was a battle between the two leads as to who



Will Smith's double-decker digs will knock you out!

would show up on set first. So they would take their time because they didn't want to be the first. We would wait for hours for them to come out of their trailers."

**THE TEAMSTERS
WOULD HAVE
TO MOVE THESE
FOUR TRAILERS
AND ARRANGE
THEM IN A SQUARE
SO THAT EDDIE
MURPHY WOULD
HAVE A PRIVATE
COURTYARD**

Or it may be just the backdrop where they flaunt their rank through their actions. "On

Never Was," reveals a source, "Nick Nolte liked to walk around pretty much naked with just a bathrobe on. A couple of times he'd come out of his trailer and once his bathrobe opened. We saw a little bit too much. In the film, he actually had to wear a silk bathrobe. For some reason, every single time he was ever spotted he had on this silk bathrobe. Sometimes he had pajama pants on underneath and sometimes he didn't."

Occasionally, you find a star who throws everyone off by stepping out of the game. Consider the story of John Candy and Maureen O'Hara. Shooting *Only the Lonely* in 1991, Candy discovered he had been given a huge movie star trailer while O'Hara—the star of *Miracle on 34th Street* and Oscar-winner *How Green Was My Valley* who was making her first film in 20 years—was given something quite a bit less. "Can't you get Maureen a trailer like mine?" Candy asked. "Don't you know who she is?" There was no way, Candy was told. So Candy solved the problem his own way. He gave O'Hara his trailer and he took hers. —MPM

**NEXT ISSUE:
MOVING
PICTURES**

**MONEY & FINANCE
THE FILM FRANCHISE:
WHEN MOVIES BECOME COMPANIES**

COMING IN JUNE