

TULSA WORLD

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Tulsa couple's movie available for purchase

ERIC ROBERTS
VIVICA A. FOXSO THIS IS
CHRISTMAS

Courtesy

BY MICHAEL SMITH

World Scene Writer

"So This is Christmas," a holiday-set family drama filmed in Tulsa and starring Eric Roberts, Vivica A. Fox and a group of young co-stars, is now available for purchase on DVD and through downloads, the movie's Tulsa-based makers announced last week.

Director Richard Foster and producer Deborah Foster — the local husband-and-wife team that has shot more than 1,000 commercials for clients such as McDonald's and Pizza Hut — premiered their film at Circle Cinema last winter before taking it on the film festival circuit. Now they're ready for the world to see their movie debut.

"This is very exciting, because we're also going to play it in a few theaters again, including

the Circle, and we're talking with people about it being available on TV before the end of the year, so there are going to be a lot of ways to see our movie," Richard Foster said.

"But the DVD would make a great Christmas present, certainly. This is a movie that would be very good for generating a thoughtful family discussion at Christmas time."

The film shot for more than four weeks in October-November 2011 in the Tulsa area at sites including Utica Square, Will Rogers High School, Spotlight Theater and River Parks. The film qualified to receive tax rebates through the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate, such as other movies including "August: Osage County" and "To the Wonder."

"So This is Christmas," with a title taken from a John Lennon song, tells a story of redemption that follows a teen girl who finds an escape from her demanding stepmother and drug-using stepbrother in her own downward spiral of liquor and shoplifting.

In stock at retailers

"So This is Christmas" is available for purchase on DVD through Amazon's website, in Walmart stores and at other retailers, and can be downloaded from iTunes and other sites. A cleaned-up version, with some language and visual images of drug usage edited out, is available on DVD through Mardel and various Christian booksellers, the film's makers said.

Her positive change comes when a family acquaintance asks her to help stage a Christmas play for underprivileged children.

"The important thing is not what happens in life, but your choices you make in response to what happens in your life," Richard Foster said. "The lead character finds that by helping others, she is in effect helping herself. That's our movie's theme."

The girl is played by Lexi Ainsworth, an Oklahoma City native and veteran of film and TV, includ-

ing 300 episodes of "General Hospital."

Her character is a member of a family mix that includes parents played by film veterans Eric Roberts of "Runaway Train" and "The Dark Knight" and Vivica A. Fox of "Independence Day" and "Kill Bill, Vol. 1." Her stepbrother is played by Titus Makin Jr., who has appeared in "Glee" and is set to co-star in the CW midseason drama "Star-Crossed."

The Fosters have written other scripts that they hope to produce

as movies, including a science-fiction film "that would be something totally different, called 'The Test,' with more of a futuristic theme," Richard Foster said.

The hope is to go into production on that proposed film in late 2014, but "we're now going into the fund-raising mode," Deborah Foster said.

While the Fosters are focused on the making of feature films, they're still shooting commercials.

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