

ELGIN



The Great Waldo Pepper (1975)

Adventure, Drama, PG

- Downtown Elgin, Main Street

The 1920s-30s period movie was filmed in Elgin, with most flight scenes near San Antonio and in Florida. Robert Redford stars as pilot Waldo Pepper. In the film, Mary Beth (Susan Sarandon), shown above, is performing a stunt as a wing walker when the Standard J-1 biplane lands on Elgin's Main Street between the historic buildings lining the roadway. Curiously enough, the buildings in the film are not shown in the correct sequence. The cast also includes Margot Kidder as Waldo's girlfriend Maude and Bo Svenson as fellow pilot Axel Olsson. Directed by George Roy Hill, the film is highly regarded among aviation historians, with aerial sequences staged by Frank Tallman.

PLOT: Waldo Pepper (Redford) who had missed flying in WWI takes up barnstorming, acrobatics and later a movie career in his quest for the glory he had missed, eventually getting a chance to prove himself in a film depicting the dogfights in the Great War. During the way he deals with his lack of battle reputation and deaths of coworkers during flights gone wrong, which eventually led to aviation regulations by the Air Commerce Act.



Promotional image of Robert Redford in his role as the Great Waldo Pepper.

ELGIN



Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014)

Action, Adventure Sci-Fi, PG-13

- Silo area, 301 East First Street, just off of Main Street

Produced by Steven Spielberg, the fourth installment of the Transformers film series was the highest grossing film of 2014, the only film to earn over \$1 billion at the box office worldwide that year. It is the first to in the series to not feature the human cast from prior films. Along with international filming locations, Elgin's industrial area was chosen for a portion of the film.

PLOT: Five years after the Battle of Chicago (in the third film in the series), the Transformers are now being regarded a threat and the government is seeking to disable all Bots, regardless of their alliance. When Cade (Mark Walborg) discovers the injured Transformer, Optimus Prime, he joins the fight to help the Transformers.

FILM FRIENDLY



Bastrop County is a favorite of filmmakers, from commercials to television series to major motion pictures, with well over 120 productions filmed in the last 5 years in Smithville, Bastrop and Elgin, Texas. They find our historic downtowns, our diverse landscapes and unique locations to be a perfect combination for all types of productions. And let's not forget our famous small town Texas hospitality.

In our trail, you'll find seven iconic films and ten locations, starting in Smithville, which was designated as the first Film Friendly Town in Texas by the Texas Film Commission in 2006. Bastrop and Elgin, Texas soon followed. In 2019, Bastrop County was designated the Film Hospitality Capital of Texas by the state legislature.

Trek your way through romance, fantasy, horror, crime, comedy, action and adventure in Bastrop County.

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BASTROP COUNTY FILM TRAIL



Bastrop County Texas FILM TRAIL

**featuring iconic movies
filmed in Bastrop County**

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1 Hope Floats (1998)

Romance, Drama, PG-13

- McCollum-Chapman-Trousdale House, 201 NE 8th Street
- Honey's Diner, 113 NE 2nd Street

Hope Floats is a well-loved example of the romance genre, directed by Forrest Whitaker. The majority of this movie was filmed in Smithville Texas, with the parade was filmed from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. on downtown Main Street. Local buildings are used for Honey's Diner, Temptation Nation Employment Agency and Snappy Snaps Foto Store. Justin Matisse (Harry Connick Jr.) even waits for Birdee Pruitt (Oscar winning actress Sandra Bullock) outside of a Main Street building during the final scene (picture on front cover). The above photo was taken at Kovar Hall.

The director paid then Mayor Vernon Richards \$1 (framed and hung in city hall) to use the town name Smithville for the film.

PLOT: Birdee, a single mom returns to her hometown following a nationally televised embarrassing divorce. She has to deal with former classmates, getting a job, her father's failing health, a daughter's heartbreak over the distance from her father, and the potential new romance with Justin after moving back into her childhood home.



2 The Tree of Life (2011)

Drama, Fantasy, PG-13

- O'Brien residence house, 709 Burluson
- Historic downtown, 1st & 2nd blocks of Main Street

Written and directed by Terrence Malick. Actors include Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain and Sean Penn. A 3 by 5 block area of the historic district was cordoned off, residents relocated, and period automobiles placed, so that Malick only saw 1940s-50s period in his lens. A 65,000 lb. tree was trucked into town from a local ranch in a two-day event and replanted at the childhood home.

The Tree of Life is highly regarded among critics and was nominated for numerous awards (120 total nominations, 112 awards), including three Academy Award nominations for Cinematography, Directing, and Best Picture. Internationally released, the film won the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in France, among others (112 total awards). Terrence Malick has now released an extended version with 50 more minutes of footage.

PLOT: The film chronicles the origins and meaning of life by way of a middle-aged man's childhood memories (Sean Penn) of his family (Brad Pitt and Jessica Chastain as parents) living in 1950s Texas, interspersed with imagery of the origins of the known universe and the inception of life on Earth.



4 Bernie (2011)

Biography, Comedy, Crime, PG-13

- Bastrop County Courthouse, 804 Pecan Street
- First United Methodist Church, 1201 Main Street

Featuring the acting skills of Jack Black, Shirley MacLaine and Matthew McConaughey, this Richard Linklater directed film is a true story of a 1996 murder and subsequent trial in Texas, where the townsfolk call his actions justified.

Courthouse scenes were filmed at the historic Bastrop County Courthouse, funeral scenes at First United Methodist Church, while the infamous Texas map scene was filmed at Smithville local favorite Zimmerhanel's Bar-B-Que in Smithville.

PLOT: In small-town Texas, an affable 39-year-old mortician Bernie Tiede (Black) strikes up a friendship with an unpopular wealthy 80-year-old widow Margorie Nugent (MacLaine). When she becomes controlling, he goes to great lengths to separate himself from her grasp. Tiede proved so highly regarded in Carthage that, in spite of having confessed to murdering Nugent to the police, the district attorney (Matthew McConaughey) was eventually forced to request a rare change of venue to get a fair trial.



Jack Black
as Bernie
Tiede in
Bernie.



5 Angels Sing (2013)

Comedy, Drama, Family

- Elbert S. Orgain House, 1704 Main Street

With a Texas-heavy music cast starring Harry Connick Jr. (Hope Floats, American Idol reality series) and Connie Britton (Friday Night Lights) and featuring country singers Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, and Lyle Lovett, this nostalgic holiday film is sure to make you smile.

PLOT: As a child, Michael Walker wished every day could be Christmas. That is, until a tragic accident crushed his holiday spirit. Thirty years later, Michael still can't muster any joy for the holidays, despite encouragement from his playful wife and well-intentioned parents. But when his young son faces a tragedy, Michael needs to make amends with his past. A mysterious man named Nick gives Michael a gift and instills in him the courage to find the joy that he lost.



3 The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

(1974) Horror, Rated R

- The Gas Station, 1073 State Highway 304

This cult classic, directed by Tobe Hooper, used real props and blood in many scenes and is viewed as one of the most influential films of its genre, setting

a new bar for violence and gore in slasher films. Internationally released, some European nations would only allow a "cleaned up" version of the film to be shown.

The Gas Station south of Bastrop is now a cult-classic destination with barbecue, film memorabilia and cabins for overnight stays.

PLOT: Two siblings (Marilyn Burns and Allen Danziger) and three of their friends go to visit their grandfather's grave in Texas, but are stranded after they run out of gas, and the gas station is also out of gas. Seeking help they end up falling grisly victim to a family of cannibalistic psychopaths featuring Leatherface with his skin mask wielding his chainsaw.

