Filming of Movie Won’t Close Clearwater Aquarium

by DIANE DANIEL

Winter in Clearwater.

After turning away scores of disappointed visitors, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, in Clearwater, Fla., has reversed its decision to close weekends during the filming of “Dolphin Tale 2” and will also remain open during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The original “Dolphin Tale,” released in 2011, was based on the true story of Winter, an injured bottlenose dolphin whose recovery hinged on a prosthetic tail. Since then, Winter, who lives full time at the Florida research and rehabilitation facility, has become an inspiration for physically challenged children and adults.

During the filming period, expected to last through January, visitors can see movie props and areas of the aquarium remodeled for the movie.

A “Behind the Scenes” tour includes additional filming sites.

The sequel, to open in September, features original mainstays, the child stars Nathan Gamble and Cozi Zuehlsdorff, and the adults Harry Connick Jr., Morgan Freeman and Ashley Judd, and introduces another dolphin, Hope, and a resident sea turtle, Harold.

While filming will not take place during the weekends, Winter and Hope will remain available to the paparazzi, as usual.

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