



G R A I N E Y P I C T U R E S



MidDAY India

Lucy Liu is in Mumbai
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Lucy Liu has been quietly shooting in Mumbai for her film Meena over the last few days. The Hollywood star's directorial venture -- about forced prostitution and sex trafficking -- has an Indian setting. It is part of the series Half The Sky: The Six Stories, that are being directed by American actresses to highlight various women's issues in the developing world.



Lucy Liu with Himani Shivpuri on the sets of Liu's film Meena



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Best known for her work in movies like Charlie's Angels, Kill Bill, Kung Fu Panda and the TV series Ally McBeal, Lucy has been shunning media attention in Mumbai. Along with her crew, she has been staying at a distant suburban hotel --far from the usual starry hotspots.

- Anurag-Kalki to tie the knot
- Guess who Hrithik gets all his bling from

The unit has been shooting at bungalows in Andheri and surrounding areas. Meena stars Tannishtha Chatterjee, Himani Shivpuri and Vikas Shrivastava. Lucy's film has a Bihar setting and is being filmed in Hindi spoken with a Bihari accent. It will have English subtitles for the Western world.



The cast and crew of Meena on the sets of the film

Everyone associated with the project is bound by secrecy and is tightlipped about Lucy's instructions. Says a source, "Lucy does not want any attention till she wraps up the film. The shoot happens between 7 am to 7 pm and everyone has to report an hour earlier for make-up and costumes. No visitors are allowed on the sets."

The source adds, "Lucy is warm and caring on the sets. She throws no airs about being a Hollywood star. She is committed to women's issues, which is why she took on the project."

HTS is based on the telling accounts in the book Half The Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity For Women Worldwide by the Pulitzer award-winning Nicholas D Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn. The authors have chronicled real-life stories of women in Asia and Africa.

The other Hollywood stars who will direct films for the series include Anne Hathaway, Marisa Tomei and Scarlett Johansson.

The film is being made by US-based producers Migella, Jamie and Jamien. Harish Amin of Speaking Tree Productions is the Indian line producer.

