

CASE STUDY

Dance Flick (aka Snowflake)



When Production Designer Aaron Osborne needed to bring New York City to the Paramount backlot for the Wayans Brothers comedy "Dance Flick" he turned to Rosco.

The Challenge:

To extend one of the Paramount's backlot streets to create the illusion of being on the streets of New York for a "Fame-Type" dance sequence, while covering a decidedly un-New York office building.

Assessment:

Art Director Erin Cochran, and Rosco veteran problem solver Phil Greenstreet surveyed the site, and measured the surrounding buildings. The intention was to capture buildings at a scale and distance comparable to the geometry of the set up on the back lot. Sending a photographer to New York for a shoot was not in the budget.

Solution:

The first step was to scout buildings in Downtown Los Angeles that would provide a good New York feel. The need for shots taken from the middle of the street meant that Phil then headed downtown with his camera before sun up on Sunday morning. Two locations were captured which offered an appropriate selection of buildings

The two images were combined and corrected to reflect a midday color temperature rather than the cool morning look of the originals. Signage provided by the Art Department was dropped in to complete the illusion.

Particular care was taken to match the floors of the right hand foreground buildings to the peculiarities of the existing forced-perspective structures of the Paramount backlot. As a final alignment and color match check the file was inserted back into the original shot of the scene.

Final Result:

Riggers constructed a large truss framework, and attached the 60' x 60' print. The perspective perfectly matched the existing structures, making the illusion of a long New York street complete.

