



# **Making Waves at The Louisiana Wave Studio at Shreveport FAQ**



**To see the wavetank's results, click on this trailer for "The Guardian":**

<http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&cf=info&id=1809264831>

## **What *is* the Louisiana Wave Studio?**

The Louisiana Wave Studio is the only computer-controlled precision wave-making facility designed for and dedicated to the making of motion pictures in the United States. Created by the makers of Walt Disney's *"The Guardian"* (Kevin Costner, Ashton Kuchner; directed by Andy Davis), the tank and its built-in wavemakers are capable of generating a variety of 2'-7' waves, and a wide variety of wind and water effects.

## **Where is the Louisiana Wave Studio?**

The studio is located on 17 acres of open land at the Sealy-Slack Industrial Park six miles from downtown Shreveport, Louisiana.

## **What are the dimensions of the wave studio?**

Our tank is 100 feet long, 80 feet wide and 8 feet deep. Its 8,000 square feet contain 750,000 gallons of water. Although the tank is smaller than the one created for 'Titanic' it is five times larger than the one used to shoot effects for 'The Perfect Storm.'

## **What can the wave studio do?**

Our "wave factory," is capable of generating an endless variety of waves up to 7' as well as horizontal storm conditions. On one side drums, or "dump tanks," can be mounted 50 feet in the air atop wide chutes to pour water onto actors or set pieces like ship decks. Three 150 horsepower fans and eight hidden chambers are used to churn up waves of any type or configuration the director can imagine.

Interesting info: "The Guardian" used set pieces constructed to resemble cargo ships, fishing boats and even a giant water cave, and employed high cranes and film production equipment including lights, scaffolding and camera cranes.

## **How is this tank different than others?**

This monster wave tank is one of a kind. LWS is the only motion picture-dedicated facility with built-in automatically-generating waves in the United States—and one of the handful in the world. The waves and wind-wave patterns created during the making of "The Guardian" were so realistic some of the hardened stunt guys actually got sea-sick. According to production designer Maher Ahmad, who worked with Peter McGregor-Scott on the design and construction of the wave tank, "We're doing something here, your audience should know, that's really never been done before. There's never been a tank quite like this one."

Ahmad, a veteran production designer, has worked on many films with big-time water effects. He helped build tanks to submerge a plane's fuselage in a river for "U.S. Marshals" and sink a pirate ship in "Miss Congeniality 2."

## **What is the history of the Louisiana Wave Studio?**

The wave tank in Shreveport was created by Aqua Tech of Flushing, New York, under the supervision of Col. Victor Lent for Walt Disney Pictures' A School Productions to film the motion picture "The Guardian" directed by Andy Davis, produced by Peter McGregor Scott, and starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher. After completion of the film, the 750,000-gallon tank was slated for demolition unless a buyer was found.

In June 2006 the wave tank became part of Louisiana Wave Studio, LLC owned and operated by Louisiana-born Dr. Ken Atchity, chairman of Atchity Entertainment International, Inc. ([www.aeionline.com](http://www.aeionline.com)), with co-manager Fred Griffin of Houston's Griffin Partners, Inc. ([www.griffinpartners.com](http://www.griffinpartners.com)).

Atchity, whose films include "Joe Somebody" (Tim Allen) and "Life Or Something Like It" (Angelina Jolie), produced "The Madams Family" for CBS and Orly Adelson Productions in Louisiana. AEI is also producing "Meg" (New Line, Jan de Bont directing) and "Believe-It-Or-Not!" (Paramount, Jim Carrey starring). He was looking for a way to shoot a film about Katrina's impact on Charity Hospital and needed a tank to recreate flooding when he came across the Shreveport tank and realized it was slated for removal.

Louisiana Wave Studio acquired approximately 17 acres around the tank and leasing rights on an adjacent 51,000-sq-ft warehouse to accommodate future infrastructure expansion plans. "The operation of the wave pool," according to Griffin, is just "phase one. We are exploring further development to complement what northwest Louisiana filmmakers already have in place or in planning stages." Atchity said: "It's been a life-long dream to bring films in my native State, and to be able to make a contribution to the infrastructure of the booming Louisiana film industry is truly thrilling." He added that his company is preparing a number of films at all budget levels to be filmed in Louisiana.

## **What productions have been filmed in Shreveport?**

Nine television series and films have shot in Shreveport since Hurricane Katrina alone, bringing \$200 million into the local economy.



A crew tests the 750,000-gallon wave tank used to simulate Alaskan waters for "The Guardian," a film starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher that began shooting Dec. 5 in Shreveport. (Times File Photo)

### **Why should I make waves at the Louisiana Wave Studio?**

- **Computer-controlled, repeatable waves of endless variety.**
- **Lower labor costs because one person runs the wave-maker.**
- **Makes large waves which allow for large models.**
- **Room to work around the perimeter.**
- **An ideal size for shooting miniatures.**
- **The Louisiana tax incentive.**
- **Adjacent stage/mill/office.**
- **Industrial neighborhood with no restrictions.**

The only facility with similar capabilities in the world is in Vancouver, but that tank is only capable of making 3-foot high waves where ours makes 7-foot high waves. Water cannot be scaled. That's why having the ability to make waves as large as possible is so great. The bigger the wave, the bigger and more realistic the model can be.

### **What are the Wave Studio's rates?**

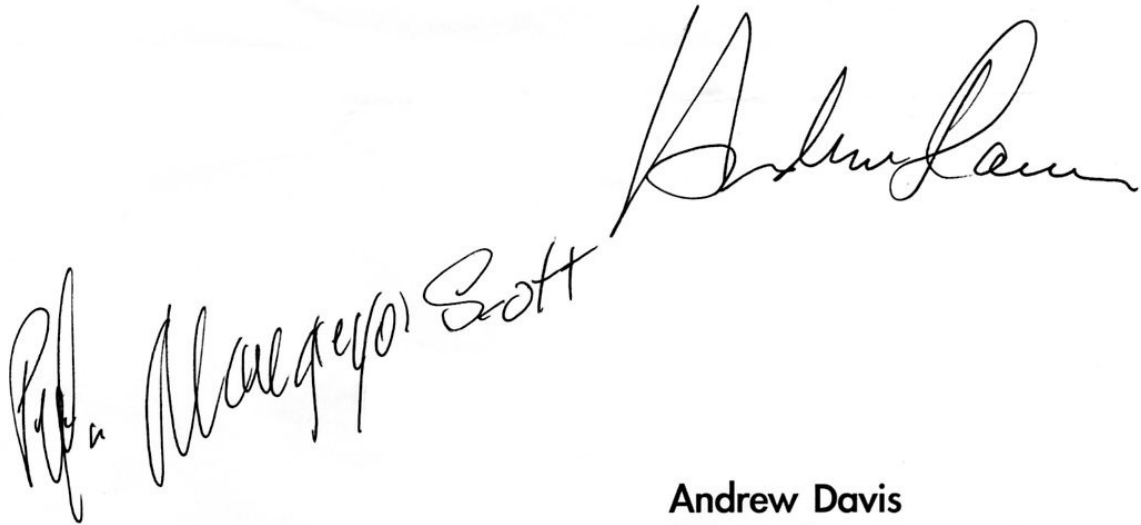
Day rates start at \$7,000. Package rates are available, depending on level of usage.

### **How do I contact the Louisiana Wave Studio?**

Please call Ken Atchity at 323-932-1685  
Or write [kja@aeionline.com](mailto:kja@aeionline.com)

## WAVE TANK TESTIMONIAL

"The tank performed flawlessly. At the touch of a button, we all felt like we were in the middle of the Bering Sea. We built it from scratch because no other tank in the world could give us the waves we needed. The Guardian could not have been made without it."

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Peter Macgregor-Scott' and the signature on the right is 'Andrew Davis'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Davis  
(Director)

Peter Macgregor-Scott  
(Exec. Producer)

**Thank you for asking about this fabulous facility for making waves.**