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*Posted: Mon., Oct. 8, 2007,*

## **Mezzogiorno joins Wenders' 'Palermo'**

### **Pic starts shooting in Sicily**

By NICK VIVARELLI

ROME — Italian actress Giovanna Mezzogiorno has joined the cast of Wim Wenders' "**The Palermo Shooting**," which has just started shooting in the Sicilian city.

Mezzogiorno — recently a lead in Mike Newell's "Love in the Time of Cholera" — is playing an angelic art restorer in "Palermo," which Wenders has described as a "romantic thriller."

"Palermo" is the first European fiction pic the helmer has tackled in more than 10 years.

Cameras started rolling Monday in the exotic Sicilian capital, known for Baroque and Arabic architecture, which Wenders said he will pay tribute to, in a somewhat similar fashion as his depiction of the Portuguese capital in "Lisbon Story."

"Palermo," which will contain cameos by Dennis Hopper, Lou Reed and Patti Smith, is centered around a hotshot German photographer, played by German rock star Campino, who travels to Sicily in the throes of an existential crisis and falls in love.

Wenders' relatively low-budget latest is produced by his own Wenders Images shingle in collaboration with Teutonic web ZDF and Arte, with backing from several German regional entities, including the North-Rhine Westphalian fund Filmstiftung, and the Province of Palermo.

Blighty's HanWay Films is handling sales.