

# Temporary Housing—the Next Level

*Accommodations experts rolls out the red carpet for VIPs*

By Nancy A. Simon

As a licensed real estate agent, concierge, and interior decorator all rolled into one, Susan A. Miner has become the “go-to” expert when celebrities, above-the-line production professionals and even corporate VIPs visit Chicago needing a place to call home.

For the price of \$5,000-\$50,000 per month, Miner locates luxurious short-term housing, ensuring that visitors have a smooth transition to Chicago. “Actors, directors and producers want their lives to be as normal as possible in an abnormal situation,” says Miner, who founded her company Premier Relocation, Inc. in 1995.

“We receive approximately two months advance notice that a production company is coming to Chicago and that a certain number of persons will need housing,” Miner says of the typical starting point for a job. She often calls more than 50 brokers to ascertain upper-bracket property availability during a given period. Even with an aptitude for matching properties to personalities, Miner says a good match takes time.

“Locating the ideal temporary home is time-consuming and highly specific. It contributes to greater costs than in normal situations.” Brokers charge an additional fee to compensate for the inconvenience of short-



**Seth Vamos stands in front of 199 E. Lake Shore Dr. He found the cozy digs simultaneously for John Candy during *Only The Lonely* and Kelly Lynch who was in town for *Curly Sue*.**

television, and a DVD player. Rupert Everett, who was in town for *Who Shot Victor Fox?*, needed to have sufficient space for his huge

Although Vamos now largely serves as a “regular real estate agent for the non-famous” with his wife Teresa, a broker, he says he occasionally gets a call from the film and corporate industry.

“I have been really successful finding accommodations in amenity-driven areas as Lincoln Park and the Gold Coast. The secure, reputable buildings like Plaza 440 on Wabash, 70 West Huron, and One West Superior have furnished units and a smattering of restau-

*“I have been really successful finding accommodations in amenity-driven areas as Lincoln Park and the Gold Coast. The secure, reputable buildings like Plaza 440 on Wabash, 70 W. Huron and One West Superior have furnished units and smattering of restaurants and stores within walking distance.”*

term rental. PRI adds surcharges for customized services such as additional furnishings or personal requests.

Miner’s clients include *The Road To Perdition* director Sam Mendes whose dwelling required Crate & Barrel furniture, a 54-inch screen

dog; Keanu Reeves wanted a funky loft no further than a stone’s throw from Gibson’s Steakhouse during his stay for the production of *Hardball*.

Seth Vamos is also a realtor and an accommodations specialist who spent ten years working with director John Hughes “from *Home Alone 1* through *Curly Sue*,” he says.

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