



Office of Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins
State of Oklahoma
State Capitol, Suite 211
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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Contact: Kim Roberts
Office: 405-521-2161
E-mail: kim.roberts@ltgov.ok.gov

**Lt. Gov. Jari Askins to Attend Local Film Festival,
Praises Industry Growth and Success**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Lt. Gov. Askins praised the dedication of Trail Dance Film Festival organizers today, thanking filmmakers, workers and volunteers responsible for its steady growth and success over the past four years.

“I am proud beyond measure that the Trail Dance Film Festival is contributing to Oklahoma’s burgeoning film and music industry. Once considered an underutilized resource, Oklahoma has continually made gains in the filmmaking community and it is gratifying to see yet another success story,” she said.

In only its fourth year, the Trail Dance Film Festival has become a magnet for new ‘on-the-move’ filmmakers across the globe, Askins explained. Several Trail Dance films have gone on to receive distribution, and the Festival has served as a launching point.

“This Festival provides tremendous opportunity to showcase the artists’ talents and match them to our industry resources. I look forward to what Festival organizers have in store for this year.”

Askins, who serves as the chair of the Film and Music Advisory Commission, attributes the state’s success in filmmaking to the dedicated people in the industry. “The Oklahoma Film and Music Office has worked to unify the film community into a single voice that has been heard all the way to Hollywood,” she said. “In recent years, the Legislature made significant changes to economic development programs to attract filmmakers to the Sooner State.”

Over 80 films spanning several genres will be featured this Friday through Saturday at the Simmons Center and Chisholm Trail Center in Duncan. Askins encouraged film fans and aficionados to attend the Festival. An ardent film and music proponent, Lt. Gov. Askins will attend this Saturday. Film schedules are available online at www.traildancefilmfestival.com.