



## Activity Report August 2009

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### Points of Interest

***You Can't Win:*** Filming of this screen adaptation of the autobiography of Jack Black has been delayed due to casting considerations. Prep work continues with production targeted for Guthrie and additional locations in Southeastern Oklahoma. To submit your resume, please e-mail [youcantwinmovie@yahoo.com](mailto:youcantwinmovie@yahoo.com).

***Heaven's Rain:*** Film based on the life of former Oklahoma state senator Brooks Douglas is now targeted to begin Oklahoma filming in March 2010 in various locations around the state. To submit your resume, please e-mail [zorinah@heavensrainmovie.com](mailto:zorinah@heavensrainmovie.com).

**Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program Update:** OF&MO continues to field a large volume of inquiries on the new 35%-37% Film Enhancement Rebate Program. With seven pending applications currently in the queue, OF&MO staff is tracking benchmarks for each production as set forth in the guidelines to ensure applicants are moving forward with plans to film in state. Pending applications range from \$100,000 to \$18 million and are a mix of projects developed in-state as well as projects looking to come in from Los Angeles and elsewhere.

**Los Angeles Sales Trip/Incentives Panel:** The week of August 10, Jill Simpson of OF&MO met with industry professional in Los Angeles to discuss the state's newly increased incentives program and to promote Oklahoma as a destination for filmmakers. During the Los Angeles visit, both Jill Simpson and Chad Burris of Tulsa-based Indion Entertainment Group were featured as panelists at the Incentives Office's Summer Incentives Symposium held at the Landmark Theatre in West L.A before a capacity audience of 200 industry members. Burris spoke at a panel entitled "Soft Money – Get Yours..." along with representatives from Winchester Capital, Tax Credits, LLC and Film Finances, the industry's premiere completion bond company. Simpson spoke on a panel entitled "What's New?" along with state film commissioners from Louisiana, New Mexico and Michigan. The panel provided a great networking opportunity both before and after with industry leaders and incentives experts.

**OF&MO Advisory Board Meeting Recap:** On August 18, OF&MO hosted the quarterly Advisory Board Meeting at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Advisory Board Members were brought up to speed on the new incentives guidelines and other recent programs and developments, and provided input and support regarding upcoming business.

OF&MO is proud to welcome two new board members to the Advisory Board. Dr. Jim Rodgers, of Tulsa's legendary Cain's Ballroom has been appointed. His contributions to our statewide music industry and specifically Tulsa's storied industry are significant and we look forward to working with Dr. Rodgers to continue developing the state's music industry.

Robyn Elliott, Administrator of the Division of Communications for the Headquarters of the Chickasaw Nation, brings a deep knowledge of marketing, public relations and outreach to the Film & Music Advisory Board. With a great many civic and philanthropic commitments, we are pleased that Robyn feels strongly enough about the mission of the Oklahoma Film & Music Office to serve on our advisory board. Her experience, expertise, and vision for Oklahoma's film and music industries will be a great addition.

We would like to thank outgoing Advisory Board Members Jeanne Hoffman Smith and Gray Frederickson for their years of service to our board and for their ongoing support of our industries.

**Reel-Crew Production Database:** On August 4, OF&MO opened online registration for Reel-Crew, Oklahoma's new online crew and support services database. To date, the office has received 145 individual crew registrations and 25 registrations by companies that provide support services. Registrants are required to provide at least one professional credit for each category in which they register, and are also able to upload a resume as well as a link to their website or reel. Additionally, interns are eligible to register for the guide so producers are able to easily locate those individuals just getting started and looking to build their resumes.

OF&MO staff reviews each registration before it is made live and available to view on the website. If a registration does not list professional credits or is incomplete in any way, it is not approved to go live until all necessary changes have been made.

The expatriate database is also housed on Reel-Crew. Expatriates are eligible to register on the system using their out-of-state address. Listings are approved by OF&MO upon receipt of documentation proving prior Oklahoma residency. The expatriate database is not made available to the public via our website; OF&MO will provide that portion of the database to producers looking to hire crew only when the search for current Oklahoma resident crew base has been exhausted.

On September 1, the new database will be available online for searching and browsing. Producers looking to hire crew in Oklahoma can log on and search by category, name, region and other qualifiers. The database will print to PDF via last name or by category, and can also be exported to an Excel database.

**ACM@UCO:** On August 12, The Academy of Contemporary Music at University of Central Oklahoma (ACM@UCO) hosted their grand opening at their new Bricktown location. The open house featured speeches by UCO leadership who have worked for the last several years to make the groundbreaking new concept a reality for Oklahoma students interested in music performance, production and business. The open house included a tour of the Mac Lab, the drum and guitar studios, and special spaces designed for students to interact with one another to share ideas and discuss projects.

Classes began August 17 in the state-of-the art urban location. In its first semester, the program exceeded enrollment expectations with continuing growth expected as programs are added and expanded.

Congratulations to UCO President Roger Webb and Executive Vice President Steve Kreidler, as well as ACM@UCO CEO Scott Booker, COO Susan Wortham, and Executive Assistant Derek Brown. Their collective vision and hard work has paved the way for what will certainly prove to be an exciting new era for Oklahoma's music industry.

### **Public Relations & Industry Development**

- Attended the ACM@UCO opening of the first U.S. branch in Bricktown, as well as the outdoor celebration featuring performances by The Uglysuit and Mama Sweet.
- Met with native Oklahoma producer Hunt Lowry of Roserock Films/Warner Bros., regarding his film development slate.
- Met with Karla Meola of Title IX Productions regarding film project she is developing with Virginia Madsen.
- Met with Tom McNulty of 21 Laps Entertainment/Fox Searchlight regarding film project *Spectacular Now* to be directed by Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*). More info under "Potential Film/TV Productions".
- Met with Ben Kramer of CAA regarding *Bringing Up Bobby* as well as other CAA projects that might be right for Oklahoma.
- Lunch meeting with Tom Bower, cast member of *The Killer Inside Me*, and native Oklahoma actor/writer/producer Robert Knott regarding project they would like to do in Oklahoma.
- Attended "Don't Knock the Rock" rock music film festival L.A. premiere of *I Need That Record* hosted by filmmaker Allison Anders and musician Michael Des Barres.

- Met with musician/composer Gooding, who has Oklahoma connections, in L.A.
- Met with Kelli Konop, Exec. Vice President of Production and Jennie Yamaki, VP of Production at Mandate Pictures regarding incentives changes. Mandate has had interest in Oklahoma on projects in previous years such as “Juno” and “Peacock”, but went elsewhere due to more lucrative incentives.
- Dinner discussion with Randy Mendohlson of Mendohlson Law Office, Lucy Webb, Producer, Russ Nissen of Fox Searchlight and Sharon Miller, producing partner of Orlando Bloom
- Met with Melissa Morgan, Sean White, and Adam Lingo of OU; Brandon Robbins of UCO; Deedra Jordan and Eric Hallford of OCCC to discuss the OF&MO fall internship program.
- Presented a Reel-Crew demonstration to Oklahoma Main Street Associations during an Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Bootcamp.
- Met with producer/director Brooks Douglas and line producer Zorinah Juan of *Heaven’s Rain* to further discuss the project and Oklahoma.
- Participated in the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department’s “Green Team” meeting to discuss ways for our office to be more environmentally-conscious.
- Attended the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame meeting at the Oklahoma State Capitol presented by Max Boydston and Representative Faught to hear about OMHF’s proposal for the creation of a new museum facility and state music trail.
- Attended a brainstorming session with teachers from Career Tech’s Project EAST to discuss potential film, video, music and technology projects for EAST students.
- Met with Oklahoma City Community College President Paul Sechrist, Vice President Felix Aquino, Arts and Humanities Dean Susan Van Schuyver and Communications and the Arts Department Director Ruth Charnay to discuss opportunities for Film and Video Production students and graduates. Group also discussed curriculum, the Oklahoma Film Institute, and toured the expansive, state-of-the-art sound stage and Avid Lab.
- Worked with Ackerman McQueen to develop OF&MO’s content for the new OklaVision website and Tourism Portal.
- Made contact with Mark Bratcher regarding his work with Ada’s public access channel “Explore Ada” and his recent documentary *The Death of the Old West*.
- Attended the CD release party for El Paso Hot Button, which also featured live performances by Colourmusic and the Pretty Black Chains.
- Met with Oklahoman James Payne of Field Guide Media to discuss incentives.
- Met with Julia Kirt of Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition to discuss urgent need for support and incubation services of Oklahoma artists of all disciplines.

## **Industry Services and Technology Development**

**Film Industry Meeting:** The OF&MO Film Industry meeting was held on August 26 at Circle Cinema in Tulsa. Minutes from that meeting will be made available online in September. Fifteen industry members attended and received an update on the new incentives and application procedures, and a demo of Reel-Scout and Reel-Crew. Minutes will be available online in early September. To be added to the list to receive an e-mail update about the meeting, please e-mail [abby@oklahomafilm.org](mailto:abby@oklahomafilm.org).

**Music Industry Meeting:** The next Music Industry Meeting will be held on October 28 at Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department in downtown Oklahoma City. To be added to the list to receive an e-mail update about the meeting, please e-mail [abby@oklahomafilm.org](mailto:abby@oklahomafilm.org).

### **Digital Location Database:**

The Reel-Scout database continues to grow thanks to our community partners. This month we collected locations images for Reel-Scout from:

- Renatta Hays, The University of Oklahoma
- Stephen Boyd, Hobart Main Street Association
- Samantha Robb, Pauls Valley Main Street Association

**Oklahomafilm.org:** 1,905 unique visitors visited the OF&MO Website August 1-August 31.

OF&MO is moving forward with the necessary contracts to work with Ok.Gov to develop a new website that will replace the existing site at Oklahomafilm.org. The new website will be live approximately twelve-

sixteen weeks from the time the contracts are finalized. Phase one of the project, a Content Management System for the office will be online by the end of the year. Development on the following three phases will take place throughout 2010.

**Production Guide Database:** Reel-Crew, Oklahoma's new online production guide resource is available for registration now! Visit [www.oklahomafilm.org](http://www.oklahomafilm.org) for information on how to register.

Reel-Crew is open for registration for Oklahoma crew members and support service companies. The database also houses Expatriate Listings of former Oklahomans currently working in the entertainment industry that would be willing to be hired as locals on productions in the state. Over 200 individuals and companies have already registered.

The new user interface is open to search at Oklahomafilm.org as of Tuesday, September 1.

***This Week in Film & Music:*** Our subscription list is currently at 1,937.

Please note that *This Week in Film & Music* is currently on hiatus. Please check our events page on [www.oklahomafilm.org](http://www.oklahomafilm.org) for activities for every day of the week. Our calendar is updated daily so you will always see the most current entertainment possibilities. OF&MO wants to hear your comments and suggestions about the e-newsletter. Please send feedback or suggestions to [Julie@oklahomafilm.org](mailto:Julie@oklahomafilm.org).

**Constant Contact:** OF&MO will be implementing newly-redesigned newsletters and industry e-blasts soon and we look forward to your input on the new format.

**OF&MO Internship Program:** The Oklahoma Film & Music Office has been in the process of interviewing interns for the fall semester. The additions to the OF&MO fall intern team will be named in the September report. As for current interns, Yousef Kazemi and Kathryn Dicken have been busy posting events on the Website and have helped with various projects around the office. Camille Ash assisted with gathering materials for our Advisory Board meeting this month. A special thanks to former intern, Cody McGuire, for stepping in to help up during our all day OF&MO staff training day!

## **Production**

### **Recent Film/TV Production**

- Provided Locations, permitting and contact information to Kathie Krieger regarding her recent still photography shoot for Hills Science Diet.
- Provided Kim Cooper with Sandlot Pictures locations and contact information for her upcoming commercial shoot.
- Provided Mary Holm of Eleventh Day Entertainment with locations and contact information regarding her upcoming television project *For the Love of Liberty*.
- Provided Randy Lidster of Channel 51, Tulsa with locations and permitting information for his recent commercial project.

### **Upcoming Film/TV Production**

- Provided Christy Deal with locations, incentives, and permitting information regarding her upcoming feature project *Mercury Moon*.
- Provided Jon Schroeder with locations information and requested further locations information regarding his upcoming project entitled, *Why You Wanna Break My Heart*, The Dwight Tilley Story.
- Provided Matt Stanley of Dickhouse Productions with locations and contact information regarding his recent documentary project.
- Continued to assist Quincy Benton with locations and permitting information regarding his upcoming still photography shoot.
- Sent a customized Reel-Scout locations package to Robert Scarff regarding the upcoming feature film *You Can't Win*.
- Provided Sean Patrick Eaton with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding an upcoming commercial project.

## **Potential Film/TV Production**

- Assisted Michael Arkof of *Saving Grace* with locations research and contact information.
- Assisted Ilea Shutler with locations Information and requested further project information regarding her upcoming feature film.
- Provided Danny Yourd of Endeavor Media Group with a Reel-Scout locations package and locations information regarding his upcoming music video.
- Assisted Matt Dunn with locations, contact, and permitting, information regarding his upcoming IMAX documentary project.
- Provided contact information to Rachel Wright of Jonathan Martin Creative regarding her upcoming television production.
- Provided Rachel Tucker with locations information regarding her upcoming feature project *Time Expired*.
- Worked with OTRD's T&T Division to assist Jimmy Chu, a Hong Kong-based travel writer and blogger in his research for an upcoming video blog during a tour of Rt. 66.
- Provided Ben Kramer with a Reel-Scout locations package for his upcoming feature project *Trust*.
- Facilitated a locations scout and provided Tom McNulty of Fox Searchlight with multiple locations packages regarding his upcoming feature project *The Spectacular Now*.
- Provided a conditional rebate prequalification letter to Lance McDaniel and Sean Lynch for their upcoming project *Just Crazy Enough*.
- Provided a conditional rebate prequalification letter to Muse Productions for their next project *Music for Torching*.
- Provided information to Tulsa-based filmmaker Tracy Trost regarding his next film project, scheduled to begin filming early 2010.
- Provided information on Oklahoma's crew base to Jen Gatien for her upcoming project *Bringing Up Bobby*.
- Provided a conditional rebate prequalification letter to Paul Jensen of Best Medicine Productions for their upcoming project *Natural Selection*.
- Provided incentives information to Perry Pickert of Friday's Films for their documentary film project, *Cherokee Word for Water*.

## **Media/Press/Ads**

### **Newspaper & Magazine Articles:**

**August 5 NewsOk.com:** "UCO's Music Academy Seeks Gifts to Amplify Mission" an article about donations put toward the Academy of Contemporary Music.

**August 11 California Chronicle:** "The Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, George Lang's column: Academy Promising for Music" an article about bands playing at the opening of the Academy of Contemporary Music.

**August 12 Oklahoma Gazette:** "Academy of Contemporary Music Celebrates First Crop of Students" an article about the first students coming to the Academy of Contemporary Music.

**August 12 Oklahoma Gazette:** "Breaking and Entering" an article about Norman native producer, Mickey Liddell's movie *The Collector*.

**August 13 Urban Tulsa Weekly:** "2009 Absolute Best of Tulsa Music Awards" an article highlighting the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Absolute Best of Tulsa Music Awards.

**August 13 NewsOk.com:** "For UCO Music School, It's the Opening Act" an article about UCO's Academy of Contemporary Music from Bricktown's United Way Square opening.

**August 15 NPR:** "A Real-Life School of Rock" an article about the brand-new Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma.

**August 17 Associated Press:** "School of Rock Set to Open in Oklahoma" an article about a new state of the art Academy of Contemporary Music opening a door of opportunities to aspiring musicians at UCO.

**August 17 Reuters:** "U.K. Music Academy Expands with Oklahoma Branch" an article about Britain's Academy of Contemporary Music is opening its first branch in Oklahoma City to enhance tourism and education.

**August 18 California Chronicle:** "Hall of Fame Leaders Pitch Expansion Idea at State Capitol" an article about the president of Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame asking legislators to finance the project of expanding the museum.

**August 18 Oklahoman:** “Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and Museum Seeks \$16.5 M to Showcase Musicians” is an article about expanding the OMHF to showcase Oklahoma’s musicians.

**August 19 The Journal Record:** “Bricktown Looks to Become a Musical Mecca” an article about UCO’s “School of Rock” and the American Banjo Museum becoming a part of Bricktown.

**August 19 Oklahoma Gazette:** “Stellar Cellar” an article about former bands paying tribute to The Bowery, a basement bar that set the scene and opened doors for hopeful rockers.

**August 19 livedaily.com:** “Oklahoma gets ‘School of Rock’ taught by The Flaming Lips” online article about how the Flaming Lips will be teaching some master classes at ACM@UCO.

**August 30 The Observer UK:** “Michael Winterbottom: Some Lessons for the Nation’s Movie Industry” a feature about the director and his recent project *The Killer Inside Me*, which filmed in Oklahoma.

**TV Coverage:**

**August 20 KSBI-TV 52:** “Demand High for ‘School of Rock’” video segment about ACM@UCO.

**Press Releases/Special Announcements/ Website Postings:**

**August 4:** “Oklahoma’s New Online Production Guide Is Officially Launched!” homepage posting about Reel-Crew available to the Oklahoma film industry to register.

**August 4:** “Oklahoma’s New Online Production Guide is Officially Launched!” e-blast about the launch of Reel-Crew, and instructions for registering.

**August 11:** “IFP Filmmaker Conference” homepage posting about the conference held in New York for independent filmmakers.

**August 11:** “Oklahoma Film Festivals Featured in MovieMaker Magazine” homepage posting about the Traildance Film Festival, and the Tulsa United Film Festival being named “25 Coolest Film Festivals of 2009.”

**August 20:** “Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Inductees for 2009” homepage posting about the new inductees and the concert afterwards.

**August 21:** “Jana Jae Fiddle Camp” homepage posting about the camp and music fest held at Grand Lake.

**August 25:** “The 2009 International Cherokee Film Festival” homepage posting about the festival October 9-10 at Cherokee Nation’s Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa.

**August 28:** “Tulsa to Feature Red Dirt and Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo” e-blast about the Cain’s Ballroom performance and the Circle Cinema screening in Tulsa.

**Upcoming Oklahoma Film & Music Office Activities/Sponsorships**

Venice Film Festival – *Barking Water* screenings

**September 2-12, Venice, Italy**

Tourism Commission Meeting

**September 16, Oklahoma City**

Governor’s Conference on Tourism

**October 18-19**

Tourism Commission Meeting

**October 21, Oklahoma City**

Music Development Meeting

**October 28, Oklahoma City**

AFCI Cineposium

**November 2-3, Los Angeles**

American Film Market

**November 4-7, Santa Monica**

Interim Study date

**November, TBD**

OF&MO Advisory Board Meeting

**November 17, Oklahoma City**

Tourism Commission Meeting

**November 18, Oklahoma City**

Tourism Commission Meeting

**December 16, Oklahoma City**

*August: Osage County* Tulsa Run

**January 2010**