



## Activity Report December 2009

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### Points of Interest

**Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate:** Two film projects have established start dates for 2010. *Heaven's Rain* is now scheduled to begin filming in Oklahoma in February. The film had previously been slated to shoot in 2009, but cast schedules forced the shoot into the New Year. Additionally, *Just Crazy Enough* is also now scheduled to begin filming in May, after pushing their initial February start date.

When the enhanced Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program went into effect in July 2009, OF&MO developed stringent prequalification and final application guidelines for projects applying for rebate funds. Additionally, OF&MO implemented a series of benchmarks that must be met in order for prequalified applicants to remain in the queue up to the start of production. As a result of the benchmark system, several projects that had previously prequalified to film under the rebate program have been removed from the queue after failing to provide proof of financing. In their place, other projects have applied and prequalified for rebate monies providing they meet all benchmarks:

- Kunoichi, a Chicago-based production company, has been prequalified for the rebate program for two projects, a national New Balance commercial and a series of interstitial television pilots. Kunoichi Managing Director PJ Bickett is working closely with Tulsa's Steelehouse Productions on both projects.
- ABC's popular *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* has prequalified for rebate money for two upcoming Oklahoma episodes.
- Tracy Trost, principal of Tulsa's Trost Moving Pictures has prequalified for rebate money for *A Christmas Snow*, scheduled to film in Tulsa beginning in February.

**Film Incentives Summit:** The New Mexico Film Office recently connected film commissioners from around the country for a video conference on tax incentives. On December 12, Jill Simpson participated in the three hour video conference that discussed best standards and practices, which allowed film commissioners the opportunity to voice concerns and opinions on the topic which has garnered both negative and positive press in 2009. A follow up discussion is planned for April in Santa Monica in conjunction with the Association of Film Commissioners International Locations Expo trade show.

**Oklahoma Film Selected for 2010 Slamdance Film Festival:** Oklahoma filmmaker Jeremy Lamberton's directorial debut, *Biker Fox*, has been selected for screening at the upcoming Slamdance Film Festival taking place in Park City, Utah January 21-28. The film centers on Tulsa's Frank P. DeLarzelere III aka "Biker Fox," a well-known self-proclaimed motivational bicyclist, nature conservationist and muscle car guru. The film, produced by Elvis Ripley, will screen on Sunday, January 24 and Monday, January 25 at the prestigious festival that runs concurrently with the Sundance Film Festival.

**Staffing Changes:** OF&MO would like to welcome Yousef Kazemi as the new full-time administrative assistant. Yousef has worked with the OF&MO as an intern since 2005. He recently graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. We are very excited to have him officially joining the team.

## **Public Relations & Industry Development**

- Spoke to students at the University of Central Oklahoma's Academy of Contemporary Music during the Industry Link event. Met with students in small groups and shared current and potential career opportunities statewide and discussed OF&MO's mission and programs. Students discussed their educational and career goals.
- Met with L.A.-based producing team Christina Lee Storm and Scott Storm to discuss their upcoming feature film project, *Give Us This Day*, which they would like to film in Oklahoma. OF&MO staff members met Christina at the Producers Guild of America *Produced By* conference in June 2009; Christina is also on PGA's national board of directors.
- Participated in the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department's "Green Team" meeting to discuss ways for our office to be more environmentally-conscious.
- Met with Joseph Rivers, Professor of Music at the University of Tulsa to discuss industry development.
- Met with Rob Collins, Joe Wertz and Scott Cooper of the Oklahoma Gazette to discuss the growing film industry in Oklahoma as well as new guidelines put in place for administering the rebate in 2009.
- Provided a list of Oklahoma talent agencies to Touche Lykes and Jordan Dross.
- Met with undergraduate students from the University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University who submitted their resumes for OF&MO's 2010 spring internship program.

## **Industry Services and Technology Development**

**Film Industry Meeting:** The first film industry meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 3 in Oklahoma City at 3 p.m. The Tulsa meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 25 at 3 p.m. The Oklahoma City meeting will be held at the OF&MO Conference Room; and in Tulsa at Circle Cinema. 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 first music industry meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 30 in Tulsa at 3 p.m. The Oklahoma City meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 27 at 3 p.m. The Oklahoma City meeting will be held in the OF&MO Conference Room; and in Tulsa at Circle Cinema. 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:

- Maria Swindell, Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce
- John Mills, Muskogee Masonic Building Association
- Jessie Sanders, Mustang Chamber of Commerce
- Shane Brown, Freelance Photographer, shanebrownok.com
- Charles Foxen, Tulsa's Circle Cinema

**Oklahomafilm.org:** 1,297 unique visitors visited the OF&MO Website December 1 - December 31, 2009.

**Production Guide Database:** Reel-Crew, Oklahoma's online production guide is open to search for production crew and support services. The new user interface launched in September 2009. Reel-Crew is also open for registration for Oklahoma crew members and support service companies. Since the launch of the database, 310 people or companies have registered as of the end of December. Please visit [www.oklahomafilm.org](http://www.oklahomafilm.org) for information on how to register.

**Website Update:** OF&MO and OK.Gov continue to work together to redesign Oklahomafilm.org. The design of the new website looks great, and the increased functionality of the site will be a vast improvement over the existing site. The new site is scheduled to launch in February 2010, and new functionalities will be added throughout the year. If you have any questions about the new website, please contact the Film & Music Office.

***This Week in Film & Music:*** Please remember that *This Week in Film & Music* is an e-newsletter that highlights a sampling of film and music events statewide, Thursday through Sunday. As always, please check our events page on [www.oklahomafilm.org](http://www.oklahomafilm.org) for a full list of activities every day of the week. Our subscription list is currently at 1,969.

**OF&MO Internship Program:** The 2009 fall semester has officially ended. OF&MO would like to give a very special thank you to Brandon Robbins, Kathryn Dicken, and Sean White for their hard work throughout the semester. During their last month with us, they diligently researched and posted events for the Website and e-newsletter. This month OF&MO interviewed students for the 2010 spring semester and will announce the interns in the January report.

## **Production**

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

- Provided Maria Bohe of BL4 Productions with locations, contact and permitting information regarding the recent shoot of NBC's *The Biggest Loser*.
- Provided Mark Bratcher, Public Information Officer to the City of Ada, with contact information for his documentary *Death of the Old West* which has been picked up for national broadcast by PBS.
- Provided Dustin Pullman of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* with permitting information regarding their recent shoot in the Tulsa area.
- Florentine Films recently completed filming in the Panhandle for a Ken Burns documentary on the dust bowl.

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

- *A Christmas Snow* to be produced by Trost Moving Pictures LLC, will film in and around Tulsa for three weeks starting February 1, 2010. They are currently accepting crew resumes for all positions. Please submit resumes to [elisegra@gmail.com](mailto:elisegra@gmail.com).
- Provided freelance graphic designer Adam Headrick with contact and permitting information regarding his upcoming still photo shoot.
- Provided Cassandra Ketrick, Chair of the Cinematic Artists of Norman, with contact information for her upcoming short film project.
- *Heaven's Rain* begins filming in February in Oklahoma
- *Yellow* to be produced by Muse Films is targeted for a Spring 2010 shoot in Oklahoma
- *Just Crazy Enough* is targeted to begin filming in May of 2010.
- *Extreme Home Makeover* will be filming two episodes in Oklahoma in spring of 2010

### **Potential Film/TV Production**

- Provided Robert Knott with locations information including a customized locations package for a potential television pilot, *Tulsa*.
- Provided Shirlene Brooks of Crews Support Services with locations information and requested further project information regarding their potential still photo shoot.
- Provided Zac Miller with contact and permitting information and requested further project information regarding his potential television project
- Provided location photos and rebate information to Evan Greenberg for his feature film, *Dance of the Mirlitons*.
- Provided Della Easton of New York University with permitting and locations information regarding her upcoming capstone project.
- Provided Camara Rose of Get Focused Films with contact and permitting information and requested further project information regarding her upcoming commercial projects.

## Media/Press/Ads

### Newspaper & Magazine Articles:

**December 1 *okcBIZ*:** “Shoot ‘Em Up” a magazine article about Hollywood producer Bob Ducsay’s visit and speech at Oklahoma City University.

**December 2 *Oklahoma Gazette*:** “Men of Action!” an article about up and coming local band Action!.

**December 2 *NewsOK.com*:** “Oklahoman Brett James’ Career Takes Strange Path to Top of Charts” an article about the Grammy winning country and western songwriter and Oklahoma native.

**December 9 *Look at OKC*:** “What’s Next? A Midtown Music Venue” a magazine article that gives a run-down of all the mid-size and smaller venues in the OKC area. The article points out the need for new mid-size and smaller venues to attract more touring and diverse bands.

**December 10 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “Family Reunion” an article featuring the Red Dirt Rangers and their annual Red Dirt Christmas concert at Cain’s Ballroom.

**December 14 *NewsOK.com*:** “Norman Cinematic Artists to Host Workshop” an article about a new group for Norman film and video makers of all ages and skill levels. The group has monthly workshops on various aspects of film and video creation.

**December 16 *Oklahoma Gazette*:** “Winter Mints” a feature about popular local group the Starlight Mints and their newly adopted tradition of playing an annual Christmas themed show/toy drive.

**December 21 *Tulsa World*:** “Coen Brothers Plan *True Grit* Casting Call” an article about a casting call to be held in Tulsa for the role of Mattie Ross in the Coen Brothers’ upcoming re-make of *True Grit*.

**December 22 *Tulsa World*:** “*True Grit* Needs Feisty Mattie Ross” a newspaper article about a casting call for the role of Mattie Ross in the Coen Brothers’ upcoming re-make of *True Grit*.

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

**December 4:** “OF&MO Call for Spring 2010 Interns” an e-blast to collegiate contacts around the state in search of interns for the OF&MO Internship Program.

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

Tourism Commission Meeting

**January 20, Oklahoma City**

Trail Dance Film Festival

**January 22-24, Duncan**

Daily Variety/Entertainment Partners Incentives Panel

**January 25, Sundance Film Festival**

*Biker Fox* Premieres at Slamdance Film Festival

**January 24-25, Slamdance Film Festival**

*Killer Inside Me* Premiere at Sundance Film Festival

**January 23-25, Park City, Utah**

Advisory Board Meeting

**February 2, Oklahoma City**