



Activity Report **February 2010**

Points of Interest

2010 Legislative Session Update: The Oklahoma legislative session began February 1 and will end May 28. OF&MO has one bill under consideration this year:

SB 1351. The bill proposes adding the Oklahoma Film & Music Office to the Oklahoma Open Records Act. The act currently offers some exemptions to open records for the purpose of business development and business recruitment. OF&MO's inclusion in the Oklahoma Open Records Act would bring our commission in line with the exemptions extended to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and CareerTech. The act provides for information falling under the categories of business plans, feasibility studies, financing proposals, marketing plans, financial statements or trade secrets to be kept confidential as required to promote the successful development of businesses in our state.

OF&MO provided bill author, Senator David Myers, with a comprehensive comparison of the open records exemption policies of the film commissions of neighboring states and key incentives competitors, all of which protect trade secrets and economic development information.

SB 1351 was passed 7-0 by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 21; it passed the Senate floor on February 23 by a vote of 41-3 and now moves to the House of Representatives.

Two other pieces of legislation under consideration that affect our industries:

HB 2649 – The Oklahoma Music Trail Act of 2010. The Music Trail will consist of a number of specific site locations around the state to be selected by a working committee to identify places of significance with respect to Oklahoma's music heritage. Each site will be designated with a marker. As the bill spells out, "the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma Film and Music Commission and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation shall work in cooperative partnership to establish, maintain and promote the Oklahoma Music Trail."

HB 2649 was passed 10-0 by the House International Relations & Tourism Committee on February 10 and now moves on to the House Floor.

HB 3397: Small Business Capital Formation Incentive Act Amendments. This bill proposes to amend the original act by implementing a per project cap and spend requirement as it relates to the Venture Capital Formation Incentive Acts. The Venture Capital Formation Acts are the basis for the Indian Tax Credit offered by Indian Entertainment Group for film production purposes. The bill also extends the sunset on the act from 2012 to 2017

HB 3397 was passed 16-0 by the House Appropriations and Budget Committee on February 24 and now moves on to the House floor.

Tulsa Business Meetings: On February 16, Jill Simpson and Julie Porter traveled to Tulsa to meet with Mayor Dewey Bartlett, as well as City of Tulsa staff members Kim McLeod and Patrick Chalfant about film industry development in Tulsa. They discussed the need and possibility of creating a permanent designated position in Tulsa to assist with locations research, production support and industry development. While in Tulsa, they met with Steelehouse Productions to discuss the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate guidelines and procedures.

Agreed Upon Procedures for Third Party Final Rebate Application Reviews: With the implementation of OF&MO's new rebate guidelines in 2009, our office has added a third-party incentives review requirement. This is a common practice in other states with successful film incentives programs. OF&MO deems this a safeguard to protect the interests of the State of Oklahoma; in order to qualify to receive incentives money, producers agree to hire an independent third-party CPA to review and sign off on the financial documents from the film prior to submitting these materials to the film commission for review and approval. The practices used by the auditors must be based upon the third party independent CPA procedures that will be created in CPA nomenclature but developed with the statute and guidelines specific to Oklahoma.

After considering several companies, OF&MO will be entering into a Professional Services Agreement with Amper, Politziner & Mattia, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants out of New Jersey who have worked with several state film commissions including California and Pennsylvania to develop state-specific Agreed-Upon Procedures and provide training workshops on those procedures to the CPAs in those states.

OF&MO is currently working to finalize an agreement with Amper to begin immediate work on the procedures with a goal of having them finalized by May. We are then targeting an Oklahoma continuing professional education class for CPA's hosted by Amper in June. This will be an important step in making the rebate review process as complete, clear and efficient as possible.

Public Relations & Industry Development

- Attended the Oklahoma Restaurant Association's legislative reception to support their industry, network with lawmakers and represent OF&MO.
- Met with Anthony McDermid at TAP Architecture and several of his clients to discuss potential music facility for the state.
- Participated in a Green Team Meeting for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Green Team is working to find ways for our agency's operation to be more ecologically friendly.
- Met with Patrick Chong, a student at the University of Oklahoma, about the film industry and the OF&MO internship program.
- Met with Lael Erickson of Ackerman McQueen, Jim Rogers of i2E, and Diedre Myers about the interactive industry.
- Sent a list of Oklahoma Talent Agencies to Bryan Whorton, Delilah Lemons, James McNichols, and Piper Priest.
- Sent the Oklahoma Film sales flyer and information about our Reel-Scout database to Rebecca Eskreis who is a student at the USC School of Cinematic Arts.
- Provided a list of Oklahoma City music venues to Leland Massey who is helping set up an event for a non-profit benefit, which involves live music.
- Provided Rob Ogden of Screen Capital International with incentives and past projects information.
- Presented tutorials of the Oklahoma Reel-Scout and Reel-Crew databases to community leaders attending Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation's Training Camp.
- Provided recent college graduate Abby Murphy with information and links on Oklahoma's music industry

Industry Services and Technology Development

Film Industry Meeting: The first film industry meeting was held on Wednesday, March 3 in Oklahoma City. The second meeting will take place in Tulsa on Wednesday, August 25 at 3 p.m. at Circle Cinema. To be added to the list to receive an e-mail update about the meeting, please e-mail 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.

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:

- Kim Swearingen, The Historic Ingalls Hotel
- Maria Swindell Gus, Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce
- Kirk Fisher, Oklahoma Economic Development Authority

Oklahomafilm.org: 1,499 unique visitors visited the OF&MO Website February 1 – February 28, 2010.

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, 349 people or companies have registered as of the end of January. Please visit 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 first phase of the new site is scheduled to launch in April 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 for a full list of activities every day of the week. Our subscription list is currently at 1,990.

OF&MO Internship Program: The Oklahoma Film & Music Office spring 2010 interns have hit the ground running. Kelsey Shaw has been busy updating our music venues list, as well as posting events. Schuyler Crabtree, Kelsey Elledge, and Kyle Johnston have been very helpful in posting events and writing homepage postings for the Website, while Kerry Dixon has been editing our weekly e-newsletter. Also, Kathryn Dicken has returned to the office to help us with various tasks around the office. Thanks to our interns for all their hard work so far!

Production

Recent/Current Film/TV Production

- Provided Casey Crowdis with location, permitting and contact information for feature film *Heavens Rain*. Jill Simpson and Julie Porter visited the set and met with producers Brooks Douglas and Payton Dunham and production accountant Tory Ayers to discuss required documentation and procedures for their final rebate application.
- Provided Phil Filimowicz of *Extreme Makeover Home* Edition with permitting information regarding their recent shoot in the Tulsa area.
- Worked with PJ Bickett of Kunoichi and Kevin Anderson of Steelehouse Productions regarding documentation and procedures for their final rebate application for a Hasbro Channel pilot and a New Balance commercial.

Upcoming Film/TV Production

- Worked with Jordan Gertner of Muse Films on revised start date and rebate applications for upcoming feature film *Yellow*.
- Provided contact information and a locations package to Julie Dunfey and Dayton Duncan for the upcoming Ken Burns Documentary *The Dust Bowl*.
- Provided Maria Bohe of BL4 Productions with contact, permitting and locations information regarding the upcoming filming of the *Biggest Loser Season 9*.
- Provided Clayton Tramel of Henkels & McCoy LLC with locations and permitting information regarding his upcoming untitled feature project.
- Provided Katie Hooten of Blue Yonder Films with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding their upcoming, untitled feature film.
- Provided Melanie Sweeney of Dolphin Bay Films with locations and permitting information and requested further project information regarding her upcoming feature film project
- Provided Todd Goodman and Joe Smith of IBEW with contact information regarding their upcoming industrial training video.

Potential Film/TV Production

- Continued conversations with producers and director of feature film *Bringing Up Bobby*.
- Provided Cindy Del Marmol of Smoothworld TV with Locations information and requested further project information regarding her upcoming commercial project.
- Provided Lisa Yarte of Allied World Healthcare with locations information and requested further project information regarding her potential industrial project.
- Provided Ilea Shutler with locations information and requested further project information regarding her potential short film
- Provided Paula Griswold of Media World USA with locations and contact information regarding the television series *The Official Best Of*.
- Provided Tyson Bidner with new locations research and a locations package regarding the upcoming feature *True Grit*.
- Provided Gina Scarpulla of National Geographic Television with locations and contact information regarding the television series *Worlds Toughest Fixes*.

Media/Press/Ads

Newspaper & Magazine Articles:

February 2 *The Oklahoman*: “*The Killer Inside Me* Movie Secures Distribution Deal” an article highlighting the made-in-Oklahoma movie to hit the big screen later this year. OF&MO Director, Jill Simpson, discusses the state incentive program which is attracting more independent film productions.

February 2 *Tulsa World*: “Film with State Ties Getting Industry Attention” an article announcing the acquisition of distribution rights for *The Killer Inside Me* by IFC Films. The article also references the film’s shoot in Oklahoma and highly publicized Sundance Film Festival premiere.

February 3 *The Journal Record*: “Legislative Report” a report documenting the passing of SB 1351 during the Senate Judiciary Committee. SB 1351 classifies OF&MO as a public body permitted to retain certain confidential materials and records subsequent to their required period of disclosure.

February 3 *The Oklahoman*: “Oklahoma Bill Seeks to Eliminate Birth Dates from Release of Open Records Data” an article which references the passing of SB 1351, which permits OF&MO to keep certain film proposals confidential.

February 3 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “Contract ‘Killer’” an article summarizing the reactions at Sundance Film Festival of motion picture *The Killer Inside Me* that was filmed in Oklahoma.

February 5 *NewsOK.com*: “Berlin Gala Blends Star Power, World View” an online article announcing the premiere of *The Killer Inside Me* at the Berlin Film Festival. The article references the film’s production in Oklahoma during the summer of 2009.

February 11 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Leading the Pack” a feature about TulsaOriginalMusic.com annual showcase highlighting bands Stars Go Dim, RadioRadio, Motown Blood, and The Last Slice.

February 11 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Sticking with Tradition” an article about Tulsa’s own Paul Benjamin Band to represent Oklahoma at SXSW alongside Fiawna Forte, and Eric and the Adams.

February 12 *The Hollywood Reporter*: “Q&A Michael Winterbottom” an online article featuring a Q&A session with *Killer Inside Me* director Michael Winterbottom in which filming in Oklahoma is frequently referenced.

February 14 *NewsOK.com*: “‘The Amazing Race’ Oklahoma cowboys Cord, Jet McCoy Join Season 16 Field” an online article with interviews from Oklahoma participants in the current season of the CBS hit reality program *The Amazing Race*.

February 17 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “Divide and Conquer” a column featuring Mike McClure’s success in the Red Dirt scene.

February 17 *NewsOK.com*: “Oklahoma lawmaker says some tax credits should end” an article reporting Tulsa Senator Tom Adelson’s proposal to eliminate tax credits that benefit specific industries.

February 17 *Look at OKC*: “It’s Time to Show Some Oklahoma Hospitality” a column about Oklahoma City’s reputation towards touring music acts.

February 17 *Look at OKC*: “The Touch, the Feel of Vinyl” an article about local record stores thriving because of their large exceptional collections.

February 18 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Boys Just Wanna Have Fun” a highlight of Tulsa’s MidWest Kings coming back together after playing in American Idol David Cook’s world tour.

February 24 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “Stoney Road” a column featuring native Stoney LaRue’s anticipated new studio album.

February 24 *AdaEveningNews.com*: “Tupelo Brothers Continue ‘Amazing Race’” an online article with continued coverage on the participation of Oklahoma natives Jet and Cord McCoy on the hit reality show *The Amazing Race*.

February 28 *The Oklahoman*: “Oklahoma Officials Focus on Film Incentives” an article documenting the proposed elimination of the rural small business venture capital credit. The article also discusses the impact of the film industry on Oklahoma as well as the state’s film incentives.

February 28 *CaliforniaChronicle.com*: “Oklahoma Officials Focus on Film Incentives” an online article excerpted from the original publication in *The Oklahoman*.

Press Releases/Special Announcements/ Website Postings:

February 5: “Oklahoma Made Its Mark at 2010 Sundance and Slamdance Film Festivals” an e-blast and homepage posting documenting the exposure Oklahoma received at both the Sundance and Slamdance Film Festivals. Highlights include the premieres of both *The Killer Inside Me* and *Biker Fox*, OF&MO Director Jill Simpson’s inclusion on the “Practical Considerations & Conversations with Film Commissioners and Film Makers Regarding Film Incentives” hosted by 411 Publishing and the Producer’s Guild of America, and Sterlin Harjo’s selection to appear on one of five different Sundance Film Festival juries.

February 22: “Horseshoe Road Receives Award Nomination” a homepage posting announcing the selection of Oklahoma band Horseshoe Road as one of the top three finalists for their song “When Tears Won’t Fall” in the Best Bluegrass/Country category of the 6th Annual International Acoustic Music Awards.

Upcoming Oklahoma Film & Music Office Activities/Sponsorships

Tourism Commission Meeting
Oklahoma Music Showcase at SXSW
Norman Music Festival

March 17, Oklahoma City
March 18, Austin, TX
April 24-25, Norman