



## Activity Report March 2009

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### Public Relations & Industry Development

- Attended the grand opening of the downtown OKC offices of Visual Image advertising agency.
- Met with Shelli Todd of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Owen Kinney regarding a potential music facility Mr. Kinney would like to develop.
- Participated in an interview with John Flick from the ABC affiliate in Oklahoma City for information on the film industry.
- Provided Kathryn Jensen White with locations and incentives information for an upcoming Travel and Tourism blog she is currently working on.
- TF&MO spoke to the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce about Reel-Scout and opportunities to recruit films to the area.
- TF&MO met with Joel Hulett of Dolphin Bay Films concerning upcoming film opportunities in Tulsa.
- TF&MO shot various location photos for the Reel-Scout archive.
- TF&MO traveled to Sapulpa to photograph manufacturing plants for a possible location scout.
- Attended filmmaker party hosted by the Lincoln Center Film Society's "New Directors/New Films" program in New York.

### Points of Interest

**South by Southwest 2009 (SXSW):** OF&MO presented the inaugural official Oklahoma SXSW Music showcase, featuring some of the state's best and brightest musicians, on March 19 in Austin, Texas. The event, entitled **Sax, Clogs & Rock-n-Roll**, was held at the Palm Door, a short distance from the Austin Convention Center and Austin's famed 6th Street. The showcase was presented in conjunction with DFEST Music Conference and Festival and co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma. The show spotlighted five Oklahoma bands *Stars Go Dim*, *Ryan Lindsey*, *Colourmusic*, *The Uglysuit* and *Samantha Crain and the Midnight Shivers*. Four acoustic performers also played the event: Marcy Priest, Ali Harter, Daniel Walther and Beau Jennings. Jill Simpson, Julie Porter, and Abby Kurin of OF&MO were hosts to the 700 attendees at the event. The event provided a great opportunity for Oklahoma music professionals to meet and mix with industry insiders from across the country and around the world.

SXSW Film Festival featured two films produced by Oklahoma-based FieldGuide Media Group. FieldGuide presented two feature length documentary films. *Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo*, directed by Bradley Beesley, and *Winnebago Man*, directed by Ben Steinbauer. Both films made their debuts on Saturday, March 14th. *Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo* follows the lives of women in the Oklahoma State Prison System as they compete in the annual prison rodeo in McAlester, OK. The film was directed by Oklahoma Native Bradley Beesley, produced and photographed by Oklahomans and FieldGuide founders James Payne and Alan Novey. *Winnebago Man* is the story of filmmaker Ben Steinbauer's journey to find the man who was the subject of one of the most viewed and notorious viral videos in history. James Payne co-produced the film and Alan Novey was a contributing photographer. Julie Porter was on hand in support of both films.

**Native American Film + Video Festival:** Native Oklahoma Director/Screenwriter Sterlin Harjo's feature *Barking Water*, a road movie filmed entirely in the state, made its New York debut on March 25, at the Invitational Opening Night for the **14th Annual Native American Film + Video Festival** at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in lower Manhattan. Jill Simpson and Abby Kurin of OF&MO were there in support of the film and its cast and crew. Native Oklahoma actor Wes Studi made opening remarks for the festival and Simpson introduced Director Sterlin Harjo and Producer Chad Burris to the audience before the screening, praising their efforts and talent. The festival featured 60 films and over 100 media makers from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Venezuela, the United States and Canada. OF&MO also participated in the festival's networking salon, which allowed OF&MO staff to speak with filmmakers about filming in Oklahoma. The festival's closing night party at Southpaw in Brooklyn featured Native American musicians from around the country including Oklahoma's Samantha Crain whose music is featured in the soundtrack of *Barking Water*.

Also premiering at the Festival was *We Shall Remain: Trail of Tears* produced by the PBS series *American Experience* and scheduled for broadcast in April. One of five episodes in the series, *Trail of Tears* documents the forced march of the Cherokees from their eastern homelands to what is now Oklahoma. Directed by Chris Eyre (*Smoke Signals*), the episode stars Wes Studi and was filmed in part in the Tahlequah area.

**MoMA New Directors/New Films Festival:** Sterlin Harjo and his film *Barking Water* were also selected for the prestigious **New Directors/New Films** program, presented jointly by The Film Society of Lincoln Center and The Museum of Modern Art on March 26. Now in its thirty-eighth year, the festival introduces New York audiences to the work of emerging filmmakers from around the world. The film was selected after "ND/NF" programmers saw *Barking Water* at Sundance in January. They told the New York audience they were "mesmerized" by Harjo's work.

Before the screening, a reception was hosted by the Oklahoma Film & Music Office, Oklahoma Travel and Tourism, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, and the Chickasaw Nation to recognize the creative team. The celebratory event took place at Rosa Mexicano at Lincoln Center. Director/Screenwriter Sterlin Harjo, Producer Chad Burris, Executive Producer Jack Clark, Director of Photography Frederick Schroeder and cast members Casey Camp-Horinek, Richard Ray Whitman and Ryan Redcorn were all in attendance. Other guests included journalists from the New York Times and Fox News, New York film industry executives and New Directors/New Films programmers and filmmakers, as well as a number of Oklahomans who traveled to New York in support of the film. Reception-goers were then invited to attend the screening of *Barking Water* at the Walter Reade Theatre at Lincoln Center as the reception sponsors' guests. Jill Simpson and Abby Kurin of OF&MO were present at the screening and Q&A where the audience expressed their admiration for the feature and its Oklahoma locations.

**Oklahoma Makes the Cover of Locations Magazine:** Roosevelt Bridge near Kingston, Oklahoma will be featured on the cover on the Association of Film Commissioners International's *Locations Magazine*, an annual coffee table size publication making its debut in April at AFCI's Locations Trade Show in Santa Monica. OF&MO submitted the selected David Fitzgerald photo several months ago for possible inclusion within the magazine. It was a coup for Oklahoma to make the cover of the publication which will be distributed to all of the major studios and production companies in L.A. and New York as well as at Cannes Film Festival, the Cannes Lions Advertising Festival and other selected film festivals worldwide over the next year.

**Pearl screens at AFI International Film Festival, Dallas:** *Pearl*, based on the life of Chickasaw member Pearl Carter Scott, chronicles her life as the youngest licensed pilot in America. The film premiered on Saturday, March 28 at the AFI International Film Festival in Dallas and received an "extremely positive," reception according to Producer Dave Rennke. Produced by the Chickasaw Nation and Media 13, *Pearl*, filmed entirely in Oklahoma, is the first film to qualify for the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program, since the renewed funding in 2005. An Oklahoma premiere is slated for summer 2009.

**Oklahoma Rock and Roll Song:** The Oklahoma State Legislature voted March 2 on Senate Joint Resolution 24. Sponsored by Senator Mike Schulz and Representative Joe Dorman, the bill names “Do You Realize??” by the **Flaming Lips** as the Official Oklahoma Rock Song. The song was selected via a multi-step process: songs were nominated online and via written ballot in early 2008, then a panel of ten Oklahoma music experts narrowed the nominations to a top ten list, representing different genres within rock as well as different decades. The top ten list was published, and the public allowed to vote on their choice for official state rock song. The final step is passage by the Senate, which occurred on March 2. The House of Representatives will vote on the measure in the coming days.

Along with the Flaming Lips, Lieutenant Governor Askins, Jill Simpson, Julie Porter, Chris Kucharski, and Abby Kurin of OF&MO, and many other participants gathered at the capitol in support of the vote. The nominating process and subsequent selection of an official rock and roll song recognizes the outstanding achievements of Oklahomans in the genre which dominated the last half of the twentieth century.

**International Tourism Committee Presentation:** Jill Simpson made a presentation on the state’s film and music industries on March 17 at the Oklahoma State Capitol for the International Tourism Committee. That same week, State Representative Doug Cox dedicated his weekly “Cox’s Corner” newsletter, which is run in all of his district’s newspapers, to the presentation. His editorial piece discussed OF&MO’s new online digital location database and the office’s commitment to recruiting film production to Oklahoma.

### **Industry Services and Technology Development**

**Film Industry Development Meeting:** OF&MO conducted the first film industry development meeting of 2009 in Oklahoma City on March 4 and began with a demonstration of the new digital locations database. Other topics included production updates and a brainstorming session on how to improve our incentives package. The next film industry meeting is scheduled for August 26, 3-5p.m., at Tulsa’s Circle Cinema .

**Music Industry Meeting:** The first OF&MO music industry meeting of 2009 is scheduled for June 3 in Tulsa at Circle Cinema from 3-5 p.m.

**Digital Location Database:** The database is in place and is already proving to be an incredibly useful tool for the office and the industry. OF&MO staff continue to build the database, import project information and promote the system as an opportunity for community leaders to promote their area as a viable location for filming. In the coming months, OF&MO staff members will be taking the system on the road to show Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Groups and other community organizations how to make the most of this new marketing tool.

**Oklahomafilm.org:** Due to work performed on the website prior to the launch of the Reel-Scout locations database, we were not able to track our unique users for the month of March. We hope to have this issue resolved in time for April’s report.

***This Week in Film & Music:*** Our subscription list is currently at 1,700.

**OF&MO Internship Program:** The Oklahoma Film & Music Office is very pleased with the efforts of our spring 2009 interns. They have been dedicated, hard working, and bring a positive attitude each day. We are happy to announce the addition of a new intern, Kathryn Dicken. Kathryn is working towards her Entertainment Business degree at the Oklahoma City University. Her research skills are impeccable and we are happy to have her on the team. Yousef Kazemi and Alex Marcus have busy been writing for our events page. Emily Schmidt and Ashley McGuire have been researching events around Oklahoma, as well as completing various tasks around the office. Cody McGuire has done some special research projects on the music industry, is helping with Reel Scout, while working on press releases for the homepage.

## **Production**

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

- TF&MO assisted Jake Richardson with location permission and information for his independent film, *Locard's Principle*.
- Provided Clark Deal with location information and images for a music video.
- Provided Charlie Maupin with casting call information and assistance for his project *705*.

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

- Met with producer and former Oklahoma State Senator Brooks Douglas, director Paul Brown and Indion Entertainment Group principal Chad Burris regarding upcoming film production *Heaven's Rain*.
- In discussions with Wilma Mankiller and Kyle Smith regarding their upcoming feature film, *The Cherokee Word for Water*, which will begin filming in Oklahoma in September.
- Provided suggestions of historical and geographic landmarks across Oklahoma and locations assistance for Langley D. Bowers of Smithsonian Networks for their upcoming project, *Aerial America*. The project will utilize the same technology as Planet Earth, completely aerial filming, of natural wonders across the U.S. to illustrate the essence of America.
- TF&MO assisted Joe Dimio, of Red Creek Productions with information concerning an upcoming commercial shoot for a casino in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- Provided location research information to the *Saving Grace* production
- TF&MO assisted Nadia Izakson, of Sirens Media in Maryland, with permit and location information for an upcoming Discovery ID Channel documentary, *Prison Wives*, which will be filmed in the Tulsa area at the end of April.
- Provided Anna Charlton of the BBC UK with location information and permitting assistance regarding the upcoming filming of the documentary *Seven Wonders of the Solar System*.
- Provided locations information and permit assistance to the Sara McCombs for the short film *The Rounder Comes to Town*, which will film in Norman in April.
- TF&MO assisted Jonny Talley, the Production Coordinator for Lynn-Baxter Studios, with permit and preproduction issues for their upcoming "Adopt a Child Foundation" public service announcement.

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

- Provided incentives information to Ron Jarrett regarding a potential reality television show he is considering filming in Oklahoma.
- Created multiple Reel-Scout packages for Brett Cranford for the upcoming feature film, *You Can't Win*.
- Provided photo links, incentives information, and locations information to Brad Barnes for his upcoming film *Cowboys*.
- Assisted Tanner Thomason with locations and provided incentives information for an unnamed feature project.
- Provided Robin Eliasson with locations information and created a Reel-Scout package for her upcoming commercial project, *VW Polo*.
- Assisted McNeese Media with locations information and permit information for their upcoming feature film project in Sand Springs, Oklahoma.
- Provided Ray Smarghandi of Radiant Mass Media with incentives information for his film project.
- Provided Zachary Haden with location information and photo links for a possible commercial project.
- Provided Kenny Pitts of Outsiders Productions with permitting and location information for his project in Oklahoma City.

## Media/Press/Ads

### Newspaper & Magazine Articles:

**March Issue *More Magazine*:** “Taking Risks and Having No Regrets” a feature on Oklahoma native Jeanne Tripplehorn and her life and career, including many stories of her growing up in Tulsa.

**March 3 *The Oklahoman*:** “Oklahoma City Man a YouTube Phenom” a feature about Oklahoma City resident Zack Scott and his successful YouTube videos.

**March 3 *Rolling Stone Blog*:** “**Flaming Lips** ‘Do You Realize??’ Voted Official Oklahoma Rock Song” a blog posting about the Oklahoma State Legislature vote naming the Oklahoma native band’s song as the official Oklahoma rock song.

**March 3 *Tulsa World*:** “**Flaming Lips** Realize a hit” an article about the group’s tune “Do You Realize??” is named Oklahoma’s official rock song.

**March 3 *CBS News.com*:** “The **Flaming Lips** Take Oklahoma Rock Song Prize” an article about the **Flaming Lips** and their win over other famous songs to become Oklahoma’s official rock song.

**March 3 *The Oklahoman*:** “For Lips, a ‘Beautiful’ Moment” an article about Oklahoma’s own **Flaming Lips** win the official rock song contest.

**March 4 *Oklahoma Gazette*:** “Art Inertia” an article detailing the eighth annual Momentum exhibition showcasing the state’s top art talents under 30.

**March 4 *OKC.BIZ*:** “Oklahoma Film and Music Office Announces Movie Will Film in State,” a feature announcing the filming of *The Killer Inside Me* in Oklahoma and OF&MO’s involvement in securing the production.

**March 5 *The Oklahoman*:** “Stars Will Shine in State When Filming Begins” an article about the feature, *The Killer Inside Me*, starring Kate Hudson, Jessica Alba, and Casey Affleck will film around Oklahoma.

**March 5 *The Oklahoman*:** “Filmmakers Will Seek Oklahomans for Cast” an article announcing the call for extras for *The Killer Inside Me*.

**March 5 *Tulsa World*:** “Parts of Noir Classic to be shot in Tulsa” an article on the film *The Killer Inside Me*, which will shoot parts of the crime thriller in Tulsa and surrounding areas.

**March 5 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “Tulsa Festival de Film” an article on Circle Cinema, which brings French films to Oklahoma for a month long showcase of the most interesting films not seen in theatres.

**March 5 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “Double Disk Set” an article about Oklahoma bands **Van Risseghem** and **Astellaway** and their joint CD release party in Tulsa.

**March 5 *The Journal Record*:** “JR Flash Report” a feature on Jonathan Fowler, president of the Norman Music Festival and his gearing up for the festivals second year.

**March 5 *The Oklahoman*:** “Films Gave View of Black History” an article about 29 vintage film reels detailing the lives of blacks living in Oklahoma during the 1920’s that were recently auctioned for \$60,000.

**March 5 *Tulsa World*:** “Judges’ Choices Eliminate Bixby Man from ‘American Idol’” an article about Matt Breitzke who was eliminated from the popular competition and was denied a place past the top 36.

**March 11 *Oklahoma Gazette*:** “Debbie Does OKC” an article about stage and screen icon Debbie Reynolds coming to Oklahoma City to relive her musical past with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

**March 12 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “(Not So) Under the Radar” an article about the début of Tulsa’s newest band **Tinted Windows**, featuring Taylor Hanson.

**March 12 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “All That Glitters” an article about the Living Arts Festival featuring special guest Laura Goldhamer.

**March 13 *Tulsa World*:** “Glamour Stars Get Gritty Roles” an article about Jessica Alba and Kate Hudson’s involvement with *The Killer Inside Me*.

**March 15 *Tulsa World*:** “Coyne Operated” an article about nephew of Wayne Coyne of **The Flaming Lips**, Dennis Coyne is following in his uncle’s footsteps with a full-length album in the works.

**March 15 *Tulsa World*:** “Colourmusic’s New Vibe Boasts Sounds, Not Looks” a feature on Stillwater’s psychedelic pop-rock group and their performance during South by Southwest’s Music Festival at Oklahoma’s first official music Showcase.

**March 15 *Tulsa World*:** “Booker: More Than Lips Service” an article about **Flaming Lips** manager and Oklahoma native, Scott Booker, and his involvement with other bands and his commitment to growing the music industry in Oklahoma.

**March 18 *Oklahoma Gazette*:** “Magic Wanda” a feature about Wanda Jackson, Oklahoma’s own Rockabilly Queen, and her upcoming national Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction.

**March 19 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “Get Your Fix” an article that discusses the performance of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and Tulsa Symphony Orchestra.

**March 19 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “Representin’” a feature about Tulsa artists who will be attending the South by Southwest Music Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas.

**March 19 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*:** “The Epic and the Intimate” an article about Stillwater band, **Other Lives**, which focuses on perfecting its live show in preparation for their upcoming tour.

**March 20 *Tulsa World*:** “Music Party Gets Started” an article about Oklahoma bands featured at the OF&MO sponsored **Sax, Clogs, and Rock & Roll**, Oklahoma’s first official showcase at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas.

**March 25 *Oklahoma Gazette*:** “Beau by Blow” a feature on Tulsa native Beau Jennings and his return to pay tribute to a scene and state that inspired his start and fueled his songs.

**March 29 *NPR Music.org*:** “Rockabilly’s Wanda Jackson Hits Hall of Fame” an article about Oklahoma native and resident Wanda Jackson’s iconic career and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**March 31 *New York Times*:** “Music Review: Samantha Crain and The Midnight Shivers” an on-line review about the Oklahoma native and Choctaw member’s performance in Brooklyn, New York at the closing-night party for the 2009 Native American Film + Video Festival.

#### **TV Coverage:**

**March 3 *The Rachel Maddow Show*:** The naming of the official Oklahoma rock song “Do You Realize??” was discussed on the show. In the piece, the host invites the **Flaming Lips** to be on her show.

**March 5:** KWTW Channel 9 interview with Jill Simpson on *The Killer Inside Me* and Oklahoma’s film industry and incentives.

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

**March 3:** “Oklahoma Picks Official Oklahoma Rock & Roll Song” homepage posting about the Oklahoma State Legislature vote on March 2 on Senate Joint Resolution 24, which names “Do You Realize??” by the **Flaming Lips** as the official Oklahoma rock song.

**March 5:** “Oklahoma Bands Become Buzz at Austin’s SXSW” News Release about the band included in lineup at the first official Oklahoma music Showcase.

**March 5:** “LUNAFEST Oklahoma Benefits WOW! at World Neighbors” homepage posting about the traveling film festival by, for, and about women.

**March 6:** “Oklahoma Lands Multi-Million Dollar Film Project” homepage posting about *The Killer Inside Me* feature starring Kate Hudson, Jessica Alba, and Casey Affleck, which will be filmed in parts of Oklahoma.

**March 12:** “Sterlin Harjo’s *Barking Water* to Make New York Debut” homepage posting about the Oklahoma filmmaker and his film debuting at the Native American Film + Video Festival and MoMA’s New Directors/New Films Festival.

**March 12:** “Oklahoma’s Reel-Scout Database” e-blast about the database powered by Reel-Scout, which enables Oklahoma to recruit more filmmakers to the state.

**March 17:** “Oklahoma Locations Database Goes LIVE” homepage posting about the launch of the Oklahoma Locations Database powered by Reel-Scout and how it will help recruit more filmmakers to Oklahoma.

**March 17:** “World Neighbors and Sundance Film Festival’s *FLOW* Now Available on DVD” homepage posting about how to buy the documentary that discusses the impact of water.

**March 17:** “Oklahoma Bands Become the Buzz at Austin’s SXSW” homepage posting about the band lineup scheduled to perform at Oklahoma’s first official music showcase.

**March 20:** “*Pearl* to be screened at AFI International Film Festival” homepage posting about the Oklahoma filmed feature premiering at the film festival in Dallas, Texas.

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

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| 2009 AFCI Locations Expo and industry meetings         | <b>April 15-19, 2009</b>     |
| Bare Bones Film Festival                               | <b>April 16-26, Muskogee</b> |
| Norman Music Festival                                  | <b>April 25, Norman</b>      |
| Governor bill signing for rock song                    | <b>April 28 (TBD)</b>        |
| OFMO/OKT "One Hot Oklahoma Night" VIP Reception        | <b>May 1, 2009</b>           |
| "One Hot Oklahoma Night" opens to public               | <b>May 2, 2009</b>           |
| <i>The Killer Inside Me</i> begins filming in Oklahoma | <b>May 11, 2009</b>          |
| deadCENTER Film Festival                               | <b>June 10-14, OKC</b>       |
| DFEST Music Festival                                   | <b>July 24-24, Tulsa</b>     |