



Activity Report May/June 2010

Points of Interest

2010 Legislative Wrap Up:

SB 1351- Amendments to the Oklahoma Open Records Act: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Henry on April 22, 2010. Passage of this bill adds the Oklahoma Film & Music Office to the Oklahoma Open Records Act. OF&MO's inclusion in the Oklahoma Open Records Act will 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.

Final Results on the two other pieces of legislation that were under consideration this session that affect our industries:

HB 2649 - The Oklahoma Music Trail Act of 2010: Failed to get the required Senate votes this year. The bill was then reworked as a resolution, and is now known as **SR 129: Oklahoma Music Trail Resolution**. It "supports the establishment of an Oklahoma Music Trail; encouraging cooperation and coordination; and directing distribution." This passed the Senate floor on May 26.

SB 1590 - Amendments to the Small Business Capitol Formation Incentive Act and Rural Venture Capital Formation Incentive Act: Passage of this bill establishes a moratorium on tax credits for qualified investments in Oklahoma small business and rural small business ventures through December 31, 2011. Still being debated by companies who utilize this credit is the effective date of this measure. The small business/rural credit is separate from the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate but one that has been utilized by a handful of film productions shooting in Oklahoma or planning to shoot in Oklahoma over the last year. OF&MO will keep you apprised of the final word on the effective date of the moratorium.

Produced By Conference: The 2010 Produced By Conference was held at 20th Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles, California June 4-6. Jill Simpson, Julie Porter, and Abby Kurin of OF&MO were present at the conference held on the Fox Studios lot. During the three day event, Oklahoma had a strong presence that included only four other sponsoring film commissions from around the U.S. and the world, including Georgia, Kentucky, and Ireland.

In only its second year, the conference is hosted by the Producers Guild of America (PGA) and features prominent producers in the entertainment industry speaking to their peer group from not only the U.S. but those from around the world. While at the conference, OF&MO talked with many producers and shared what Oklahoma has to offer. As part of the sponsorship, the OF&MO Film Industry sales flyer was placed in the welcome bags for 1,500 professional attendees.

At the conference, OF&MO was paired with PGA representative and Film USA Co-Chair, Meryl Emmerton during the Film Commissioners breakfast. At this event, all participating film commissioners and their staffs were brought to the stage for introduction which paved the way for producers in attendance to meet them and discuss their projects. The weekend provided many opportunities for OF&MO to market Oklahoma to producers, executives, and other industry professionals.

During the conference, staff writer Alex Ben Block from the weekly film industry publication *The Hollywood Reporter* interviewed Simpson about Oklahoma's experience at Produced By for the June 6 issue. To read the article, please visit http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/content_display/news/

While attending the conference OF&MO attended sessions about the film industry including: *Entertainment Partner's Produced in the USA: An Update on Domestic Tax Incentives*; *Smashing Windows: Do It Yourself and the New Hybrid Distribution*; *Conversation with Mark Gordon and Marshall Herskovitz*; *Where's the Money? This Year's Guide to Independent Financing*; and *the Digital Pipeline: Post Production, Workflow and Technologies*.

deadCENTER Film Festival: The 10th Annual deadCENTER Film Festival took place June 9-13 in Oklahoma City. With over 10,000 people in attendance during the three-day festival, audience members took part in screenings, panels, and events. Jill Simpson, Julie Porter, Abby Kurin, Chris Kucharski, and Yousef Kazemi, along with OF&MO interns participated in numerous events during the festival.

deadCENTER began Wednesday, June 9, with a kick-off celebration attended by over 2,000 people. The 500 block of Broadway Avenue (Automobile Alley) was closed to traffic for the block party featuring live music, entertainment, food and drinks, and various vendors and groups. The evening concluded with the screening of *The Birth of Big Air*, a documentary about legendary BMX pioneer and Oklahoma native Mat Hoffman. The highlight of the evening was the presence of Academy Award-nominated director Spike Jonze. He attended the festival as the producer of the film, along with Hoffman, and participated in a Q&A after the screening. OF&MO was present at the kick-off celebration by having the OF&MO tent set up and materials on hand for the public to learn more about the office.

On Friday, June 11, OF&MO hosted a filmmaker reception at Iguana Mexican Grill. This offered filmmakers a chance to talk to industry professionals and fellow filmmakers, while learning what Oklahoma has to offer.

Also in attendance at the festival was acclaimed film critic Elvis Mitchell who participated in a Saturday afternoon panel discussion on the dying art of film criticism following a screening of the documentary *For the Love of Movies: The Story of American Film Criticism*, in which Mitchell also appeared as a commentator.

Each year the OF&MO is proud to present awards to two Oklahoma films. *The Rounder Comes to Town* was recognized as the Best Okie Short, and *The Rock 'n' Roll Dreams of Duncan Christopher* was named Best Oklahoma Feature.

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. 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.

OF&MO has entered 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 developed Interim Agreed-Upon Procedures, and presented those to a group of CPAs with interest in the film industry. These CPAs will be able to review rebate claims received by OF&MO prior to the implementation of the official Agreed-Upon Procedures.

OF&MO is working with Amper to both finalize Oklahoma's Agreed-Upon Procedures and provide an Oklahoma continuing professional education class for CPAs hosted by Amper in July.

Public Relations & Industry Development

- Attended the premiere of the Oklahoma filmed feature *Pearl* at the Warren Theatres in Moore
- Attended the grand opening of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art's *Sketch to Screen* exhibit
- Met with Ryan Walker of Shoe Gypsy and local band Emelo about the music industry in Oklahoma
- Met with Matt Thomas to discuss the OF&MO Filmmakers Reception during the deadCENTER Film Festival
- Met with Governor Brad Henry and his Chief-of-Staff, Gerald Adams the last week of legislative session to discuss film and music industry interests and concerns
- Met with Matt Stansberry to discuss his new CD and other issues related to his solo music career, as well as his business building Websites and other online presences for artists and musicians
- Continued discussions with Amper, Politziner, & Mattia about the implementation of third party audits for the film industry
- Participated in CMS training classes for the newly redesigned Website
- Met with James Payne and Al Novey of Field Guide Media regarding production services options
- Provided a list of Oklahoma Talent Agencies to Lindsay Crisp, Jeri Keith, and Omoy Scarlett
- Presented to Ignite OKC event and provided audiences with a brief overview of OF&MO's role in the Oklahoma film industry
- Met with Lynn Appelle, Louise Lovegrove, and Pam Garrett regarding their project *Bringing Up Bobby* and answered their final questions regarding the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate
- Toured the Oklahoma City Chesapeake Boathouse and future boathouse district with Kyle Millar of the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation
- Traveled to Quartz Mountain in Lone Wolf for the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute to visit with students in the film and video discipline about educational opportunities in Oklahoma, as well as future career opportunities in-state and the role of the Oklahoma Film & Music Office
- Attended a Creative Oklahoma board meeting to hear updates on November's international State of Creativity Summit to be held in Oklahoma City
- Met with Representative Shane Jett and filmmaker Melissa Sue Lopez regarding her film project and production company
- Met with Alison Dick about film project *Bad Dreams*
- Provided Dave Lewis of the online resource, *The Location Guide* with location information and production statistics regarding filming in Oklahoma
- Provided Robert Woodward of the Motion Picture Association of America with production statistics in Oklahoma for the calendar year of 2009
- Met with native Oklahoma entertainment publicist Stan Rosenfield (represents George Clooney and Robert DeNiro among many others) in L.A. to discuss his client roster and film projects in development with client roster ties that are interested in filming in Oklahoma

Industry Services and Technology Development

Film Industry Meeting: The next film industry meeting will be held on August 25 at 3 p.m. at Tulsa's 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 2010 music industry meeting was held on Wednesday, June 30 in Tulsa. The next meeting will take place in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, October 27 at 3 p.m. The Oklahoma City meeting will be held in the OF&MO Conference Room at the First National Building. 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. We launched last year with an offering of 500 locations in our digital archive. We just hit the 1,000 location mark a year later, an exciting benchmark for us. This month we collected locations images for Reel-Scout from:

- Robert Finney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Georgie Rasco, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Kathy Montgomery, Guthrie, Oklahoma

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, 412 people or companies have registered as of the end of June. Please visit www.oklahomafilm.org for information on how to register.

Website Update: OF&MO is pleased to announce the launch of the all-new OklahomaFilm.org. Working with developers at OK.gov, OF&MO has completely redesigned the Website to be more modern, informative, and user-friendly.

The new OklahomaFilm.org includes an updated, contemporary design with easier access to important information about the film and music industries in the state. Visitors will be able to view vital regulation information, the online locations database and production guide, individual community profiles, news articles, job opportunities, a daily updated event calendar, and more. Users will also be able to download incentives forms and subscribe to notifications sent out by the OF&MO.

One new feature still in development is the Oklahoma Music Guide. Much like the Oklahoma Production Guide is a database for all Oklahoma film crew, the Music Guide will be an all-inclusive, fully searchable online source for original Oklahoma music. Once it has launched, bands, venues, performers, and music businesses can register, and users will be able to browse the database to find talented artists of all genres, live music locations, and other music-related companies.

Since its official launch on June 9, 2010, OklahomaFilm.org has experienced an influx of popularity with nearly 4,000 visitors in the weeks since its debut. The most popular pages include the Oklahoma Production Guide, the 'Filming in Oklahoma' section of the site, and the Jobs & Internships listings. The Website has also enjoyed top ranking on search engines such as Google, Bing, Yahoo, and Ask.com.

This Week in Film & Music: The e-newsletter is currently on a summer hiatus as we prepare to launch a new way of sending it to our subscribers. 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 2,032.

OF&MO Internship Program: The OF&MO would like to thank our Spring 2010 interns on a successful and productive semester. Intern candidates were interviewed for the internship program throughout May. Selected for the Summer 2010 semester are: Patrick Chong, the University of Oklahoma; Daniel Terracina, the University of Oklahoma; Caitlin Doak, Syracuse University; and Taylor Mullins, the University of Oklahoma. These interns have hit the ground running this summer. Not only researching and writing about events for the Website, they have been writing press releases, as well as populating events for the new Website. In addition, they have been extremely helpful in organizing the office and starting a press archiving system. All interns volunteered and represented OF&MO at the kick-off celebration during the deadCENTER Film Festival, and the OF&MO Filmmakers Reception.

Production

Recent/Current Film/TV Production

- Provided Maria Bohe of BL4 Productions with permitting and locations information regarding the recent filming of the *Biggest Loser Season 10*
- Provided Matt Demblowski of Sharp Entertainment with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding their recent filming of an episode of *Man Vs. Food* for the Travel Channel
- Provided Steven Miller of Superfine Films with contact and permitting information for the upcoming Animal Planet series *Critter Eviction*
- Provided Scott Doyle of Scott Edwards Enterprises LLC with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding his recent documentary feature *Count Gregore – A True Story*
- Provided Rick Page of Moving Parts Inc. with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the recent filming of a Proctor & Gamble commercial project
- Provided Tammy Oller of Bongo LLC with locations, contact and permitting information regarding their recent filming of the reality show *Dad Camp Reunion* for VH1

- Provided James King of Cook Media & Associates with locations and permitting information regarding his upcoming music video project *President*
- Provided Sean Patrick Eaton of Frames Per Second Productions with locations and permitting information regarding their recent Toby Keith Concert Film

Upcoming Film/TV Production

- Provided David Mason and Simon De Selva of Howling Wolf Films Limited with locations, permitting, and contact information, for the upcoming feature film *Bad Dreams*
- Provided Jonathan Chinn of Charred Oak Films with locations, contact, and permitting information for his upcoming music video project
- Provided Kenny Pitts of Outsiders Productions with contacts and permitting information regarding his upcoming untitled feature film project
- Provided Paul Stehlick of Watermark Films with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding their upcoming feature film *Seasons of Gray*
- Provided Lydia Rendon of Punched in the Head Productions with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding their upcoming documentary *Wait 'Til Next Year*
- Provided Cathy Webster of Upper Space LLC with contact and locations information regarding her upcoming commercial production
- Provided Joshua Smith of Joshua Smith Photography with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding his upcoming still photo shoot in southeastern Oklahoma
- Provided Jared Wanzer of Jared Wanzer Photography with locations and contact information for his upcoming still photo shoot in Oklahoma City
- Provided Lynn Appelle and Payton Dunham of Bringing Up Bobby LLC with locations, contact and permitting information regarding their upcoming feature film *Bringing Up Bobby*
- Provided Justin Boyd of Justin Boyd Enterprises, LLC with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding his upcoming music video project

Potential Film/TV Production

- Provided Jake Evan Cohen of Prosecutors Films Inc. with locations and contact information regarding their upcoming untitled documentary project
- Provided Steve Marvin of Blackhawk LLC with locations and permitting information for his potential commercial production
- Provided Mary Haverstick and Michelle Mercure with locations and contact information including a locations scout of Oklahoma City for their potential feature film project *Almost Mercury*
- Provided Linda Layman of Linda Layman Agency with contact information for her potential commercial project
- Provided Cristian Luna of Suspect Film Works with locations information including a customized locations package regarding his upcoming feature film *The Sentient*
- Provide Samuel Kim of Gopher Industries with locations information regarding his potential untitled feature film project
- Provided Cassandra Ketrick of the Cinematic Artists of Norman with locations information regarding their potential feature film *Big League Robert*
- Provided Barbara DeFina with locations information including a customized locations package for her potential untitled feature film project

Media/Press/Ads

Newspaper & Magazine Articles:

May 5 Oklahoma Gazette: “Lights, Camera, Fashion!” a feature article exploring the Oklahoma City Museum of Art’s new “Sketch to Screen: The Art of Hollywood Costume Design” exhibit

May 5 Oklahoma Gazette: “Grand Finale” an article about the preparation of the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma for their first end-of-semester student showcase

May 6 Urban Tulsa Weekly: “Sweet Spot” an article examining the Paul Benjamin Band and their new album after their experience at the 2010 South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas

May 9 *The Daily Oklahoman*: “Loss of Tax Credits May Harm Oklahoma’s Chances at Attracting Filmmakers” an article about state legislative and budgetary concerns regarding tax credits for films

May 9 *Tulsa World*: “No Tax Credits Could Be Loss of Films” an article explaining a potential state legislative decision and its effect on filmmakers

May 12 *The New York Times*: “A Road Trip to the End of the Road” a review of Oklahoma filmmaker Sterlin Harjo’s *Barking Water*

May 13 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Breaking Free” a feature delving into Fiawna Forté’s long awaited album and the story behind her music

May 17 *Tulsa World*: “Edmond Preteen Greyson Chance Lands Record Deal in Record Time” an article about Edmond native and 12-year old singing sensation Greyson Chance and his rumored record deal with Interscope Records

May 20 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Sense of Community” an article about radio host Scott Aycock’s gathering of Tulsa musicians for his new album

May 21 *The Lawton Constitution*: “Cadillac Ranch Putting the Red Dirt Sound on City Stage” a feature exploring Cadillac Ranch, a bar and live music venue in Lawton

May 21 *The Daily Oklahoman*: “Distribution Deal for Oklahoma-made Film *Ecstasy of Gold* Announced in Cannes” a feature on the film *Ecstasy of Gold* and its success in Cannes

May 21 *The Journal Record*: “Local Filmmaker Taps Wide Product Platform” an article about Tracey Trost and his film company Trost Moving Pictures, detailing the company’s unique business strategy and featuring quotes from OF&MO Director Jill Simpson

May 24 *NewOK.com*: “Greyson Chance Turns into Music Industry Model” an article detailing how new media is changing the way industry leaders discover new talent

May 25 *NewsOK.com*: “Greyson Chance to Return to ‘Ellen’ Show” an article on Greyson Chance’s return to The Ellen Degeneres Show during which he gives viewers a look at his life in Edmond

May 25 *ArtDaily.org*: “*Barking Water* by Native American Director Sterlin Harjo Has a Weeklong Run at MoMA” an article about Oklahoma film *Barking Water* and its screening at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City

May 26 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “Late Bloomer” an article about Shawnee’s Samantha Crain and her new album and path to becoming a musician

May 26 *The Scotsman*: “Interview: Michael Winterbottom – Director” an interview with *The Killer Inside Me* director Michael Winterbottom mentioning the film’s production in Oklahoma

May 27 *The Oklahoman*: “Ellen Signs Edmond Boy to Record Contract” an article on the signing of Oklahoma native Greyson Chance to Ellen Degeneres’ first record label, eleveneleven

May 27 *Underground Republik.com*: “Michael Winterbottom Interview Director of *The Killer Inside Me*” an in-depth interview with *The Killer Inside Me* director noting the film’s decision to shoot in Oklahoma because of the incentives which the state offers

May 27 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Changing Faces” an article about Samantha Crain’s new album and its release show

June 2 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “Checkpoint Charlie” a feature on the Charlie Christian International Music Festival that celebrates Charlie Christian and the Oklahoma City music scene

June 6 *The New York Times*: “Filmed to a Pulp” a feature article about the filming of *The Killer Inside Me* in Oklahoma

June 6 *Los Angeles Times*: “The Actor Inside Casey Affleck” an interview and profile on the actor starring in *The Killer Inside Me* which references the production’s filming in Oklahoma

June 6 *The Hollywood Reporter*: “Producing Vet Says Business Getting Tougher” an article about the 2010 Produced By Conference featuring quotes from OF&MO Director Jill Simpson

June 9 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “‘X’ Marks the Spot: deadCENTER Film Festival Celebrates 10 Years” a feature looking at the Oklahoma City based film festival

June 9 *Oklahoma Gazette*: “Go ‘Big’ or Go Home” a feature exploring Matt Hoffman and his new film *The Birth of Big Air*, which premiered at the deadCENTER Film Festival

June 10 *Urban Tulsa Weekly*: “Evolving the Classics” an article exploring the history and current developments of Bartlesville’s OK Mozart Festival

June 10 *NewsOK.com*: “deadCENTER Film Festival Draws Edmond Native Home” an article about the appearances of BMX superstar Mat Hoffman and Academy-Award nominated director Spike Jonze at the opening night premiere of the deadCENTER Film Festival

June 16 *AZ Reporter.com*: “*The Killer Inside Me*” a review of the film from the Arizona Reporter mentioning the production’s shoot in Oklahoma

June 17 Resource411.com: “A Killer Style for a Contemporary Noir” an interview with *The Killer Inside Me* cinematographer Marcel Zyskind in which he discusses shooting in Oklahoma. The article also details the 411 Publishing/PGA Live at Sundance Production Incentives Webinar in which OF&MO Director Jill Simpson participated along with the film’s producer’s Jordan Gertner and Chris Hanley

June 17 TheWallStreetJournal.com: “Time for Jim Thompson to Be Famous Again” an article highlighting the career of Jim Thompson, author of *The Killer Inside Me*, noting the film’s release and Thompson’s Oklahoma origins

June 23 The Oklahoman: “From the Top: Oklahoma City Is Moving Forward,” an article about the success of the 2010 deadCENTER Film Festival

June 24 LAWeekly.com: “*The Killer Inside Me*: In A Dark Place” a feature and review of *The Killer Inside Me* which notes the productions use of the film incentives offered by Oklahoma

June 29 NewsOK.com: “Tahlequah-born Actor Who Plays Werewolf in ‘*Twilight* Saga’ Considers Role a Breakthrough for American Indians” an article highlighting Oklahoman Chaske Spencer and how his role in the *Twilight* franchise has paved the way for fellow Native Americans

TV/Radio Coverage:

June 8 The Late Show with David Letterman: “Kate Hudson – Interview” a television interview featuring *The Killer Inside Me* star Kate Hudson in which she notes the production’s shoot in Oklahoma because of the tax incentives offered by the state

Press Releases/Special Announcements/ Website Postings:

May 7: “Jenks High School Student Presidential Scholars film Semifinalist” a homepage posting about student Sheema Golbaba becoming a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholars in the Arts competition

May 7: “17th Annual Austin Film Festival Call for Entries” a homepage posting about the Austin Film Festival and the 2010 festival’s call for entries

May 7: “Oklahoma Horror Film Festival Call for Entries” a homepage posting about the 1st Annual Oklahoma Horror Film Festival in Tulsa

May 14: “1st Annual Okie Country Music Fest” a homepage posting about the 1st Annual Okie Country Music Fest in Muskogee

May 14: “Oklahoma-Made Movie Lands Distribution Deal with Lionsgate” a homepage posting about Oklahoma film *Ecstasy of Gold* and its agreement with Lionsgate Home Entertainment.

May 14: “Oklahoma-Made Movie Lands Distribution Deal with Lionsgate” an e-blast about Oklahoma film *Ecstasy of Gold* and its agreement with Lionsgate Home Entertainment

May 14: “Film Festival Announces Call for Entries” a homepage posting about the Josiah Youth Media Festival honoring the late Josiah Miles Neundorf

May 17: “10th Annual deadCENTER Film Festival” a homepage posting about the deadCENTER Film Festival held in downtown Oklahoma City

June 18: “TNT’s *Saving Grace* Comes to an End with Series Finale” a homepage posting about the television drama *Saving Grace* which was created, produced, and written by Oklahoma native Nancy Miller

June 18: “TNT’s *Saving Grace* Comes to an End with Series Finale” an e-blast about the television drama *Saving Grace* which was created, produced, and written by Oklahoma native Nancy Miller

June 24: “Spike Jonze, Elvis Mitchell Headline deadCENTER Film Festival” a homepage posting recapping the 2010 deadCENTER Film Festival

June 24: “Free Tulsa! 2010” a homepage posting about the inaugural Free Tulsa! 2010 music festival held in Tulsa’s Brady Art District

June 29: “OF&MO Launches New Website” a homepage posting about the renovation of oklahomafilm.org, its new features, and what’s to come

Upcoming Oklahoma Film & Music Office Activities/Sponsorships

OTRD Tourism Commission Meeting

July 21, Oklahoma City

Advisory Board Meeting

August 17, Oklahoma City

OF&MO Film Industry Meeting

August 25, Tulsa, Circle Cinema

OTRD Tourism Commission Meeting

September 15, Oklahoma City