



Activity Report September/October 2010

Points of Interest

Oklahoma Production Update: A Hotline was set up in September for *Untitled Project D*, which began filming September 27 in the Bartlesville area. Interested parties can reach the Hotline by calling (918) 517-3211. Filming concludes in late November.

The Lamp, the Tulsa-based Trost Moving Pictures production concludes filming in Tulsa the first week of November. Based on the best-selling novel by Jim Stovall, *The Lamp* stars Jason London (*Dazed and Confused*), Meredith Salenger (*The Adventures of Natty Gann*), and Sarah Brown (*General Hospital*, *The Bold and the Beautiful*).

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 final incentives rebate 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 on the Agreed-Upon 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 as a stop gap until the formal training takes place. These CPAs will be able to review rebate claims received by OF&MO prior to the implementation of the official Agreed-Upon Procedures. Efforts are underway to both finalize Oklahoma's Agreed-Upon Procedures and provide an Oklahoma continuing professional education class for CPAs hosted by Amper.

Film Friendly Oklahoma: OF&MO continues to work on the new program *Film Friendly Oklahoma*, which was inspired by our friends and neighbors to the south, the Texas Film Commission. With an emphasis on working with Oklahoma's rural communities, OF&MO is implementing this program to provide training and ongoing guidance on how Oklahoma's communities can effectively deal with on-location filming, and optimally market their area's resources. We are initiating the program in partnership with Maria Swindell Gus of the Bartlesville Convention and Visitor's Bureau as her community is currently hosting a significant film production. Chris Kucharski, OF&MO's Locations Coordinator, and Swindell Gus provided an initial introduction sharing their experiences at a break-out session at the recent Governor's Conference on Tourism October 17-19 in Norman (*See Governor's Conference on Tourism for more information*).

OF&MO has set the date of the first comprehensive *Film Friendly Oklahoma* workshop for February 4, 2010 in Bartlesville. This workshop will be most convenient for those partners located in Green Country.

However, any interested parties are welcome to attend as space permits. Over the course of 2011, OF&MO will endeavor to host a workshop in each of Oklahoma's six "countries." If you're interested in hosting the workshop for your part of the state, or would like more information, please contact Chris Kucharski at Chris@oklahomafilm.org.

2011 Legislative Planning: OF&MO continues to formulate its legislative strategy and agenda for 2011. As most of you are aware, 2010 was one of the most challenging legislative sessions in recent Oklahoma history due to the current economic climate in the country and the strain on our state's budget. As a result, we will be working to protect the interests of our film and music industries in the coming year.

In response to recent requests, OF&MO is putting together informational talking points that you can share with your State Representative and Senator if you choose. If you have a particular issue or concern pertaining to industry growth that you think might be addressed via legislation, please e-mail the Oklahoma Film & Music Office at filminfo@oklahomafilm.org at your earliest opportunity to alert us to your issue. OF&MO must then assess where the greatest collective needs lie and determine which we are able to pursue legislatively. A key determining factor will be the State of Oklahoma's budget forecast for the Fiscal Year 2012.

Important dates: 2011 bill request deadline is **December 10**; bill introduction deadline is **January 20**; legislative session begins on **February 7**.

South by Southwest (SXSW) 2011: On September 15 the Oklahoma Tourism Commission approved the action item requested by OF&MO to co-sponsor, plan, and host a four-day event promoting Oklahoma industries (film, interactive, music) at the 2011 SXSW Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas.

OF&MO has had a presence at SXSW since 2005, and hosted official festival events in 2009 and 2010. Our goal for 2011 is to maximize Oklahoma's presence in all three categories: film, interactive, and music. We believe that we can make a huge impact at SXSW by Oklahoma entities coming together to support and promote Oklahoma and its industries while promoting them to a worldwide audience.

SXSW is the leading conference and festival that combines all three industries and is held each year in Austin, Texas. With over 30,000 top business professionals in attendance, this 10-day event brings people together to enhance knowledge of their respective field and promote their product.

The ultimate goal is a four-day event slotted during the middle of SXSW exposing top Oklahoma companies and talent to an international audience. OF&MO will program several day and night events throughout the four-day schedule to take place at one venue in heart of downtown Austin in the midst of the entire conference and festival. Our partners committed to this endeavor to date are the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, and Oklahoma Tourism.

On September 21st, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber generously hosted a luncheon for potential Oklahoma SXSW sponsors. At the luncheon, OF&MO's Deputy Director Julie Porter and Development Coordinator Abby Kurin presented our plan to Oklahoma City businesses. On September 23rd, Circle Cinema hosted a similar meeting for OF&MO to present to potential Tulsa sponsors. At each meeting, OF&MO was able to identify likely partners for this event. Please note that sponsorships at three different levels are still available. If you or your company is interested in being a part of this exciting promotion of Oklahoma, and would like more information, please contact Julie Porter at Julie@oklahomafilm.org, or Abby Kurin at abby@oklahomafilm.org as soon as possible.

On September 27th Porter and Kurin, along with Josh O'Brien of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, traveled to Austin, Texas, for meetings associated with SXSW 2011. They met with High Beam contacts Sam Staples and Lisa Owens to finalize some details and questions regarding hosting official SXSW events. They also scouted several downtown venues in order to choose the most affordable and effective location for the event.

Any bands interested in participating should apply to be an official showcasing band at SXSW. Information can be found at <http://www.sxsw.com/music/shows/apply>. Please note that the final deadline is November 5. If enough Oklahoma bands have official SXSW showcase spots, SXSW will work with OF&MO to

program an official Oklahoma showcase at our venue. Once your band has applied, please let us know by e-mailing abby@oklahomafilm.org.

Governor's Conference on Tourism: The 2010 Governor's Conference on Tourism took place October 17-19 at Embassy Suites in Norman. Jill Simpson, Chris Kucharski, and Abby Kurin of OF&MO attended the two-day conference in support of the tourism industry.

On Monday, October 18th, Simpson, Kucharski, and Kurin attended the Opening General Super Session featuring Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Hardy Watkins. Watkins presented on the current state of the tourism industry, discussing all the agencies within tourism including OF&MO. During his presentation, he shared the growth of the film and music industries and premiered the OF&MO film reel, which is a montage of projects recently filmed in Oklahoma. Additionally, every attendee received a flyer containing updates on Oklahoma's film and music industries.

Tuesday, October 19th, OF&MO staff attended the morning breakfast featuring the Oklahoma candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. Current Lt. Governor Jari Askins, Congresswoman Mary Fallin, and Lt. Governor Candidates Todd Lamb, and Kenneth Corn were present to share their vision for tourism. They discussed their background, involvement with tourism, and their goals for the future of tourism.

Immediately following the breakfast, workshops were held for attendees. As previously described in this report, "Film Friendly Oklahoma" was presented by OF&MO's Chris Kucharski, and Bartlesville CVB Director Maria Swindell Gus. This workshop was held to introduce the program intended to provide training and ongoing guidance on how a community can effectively support and manage on-location filming and market area resources. After the presentation, many community partners expressed an interest in becoming a certified *Film Friendly Community*.

Simpson, Kucharski, and Kurin also attended the Closing Session and Keynote Luncheon "The Art of Influence" featuring Dr. Raj Basu of Oklahoma State University. During the luncheon Dr. Basu discussed the power of influence and how it translates into the workforce, including tourism.

The take-away message from the conference is that Oklahoma's tourism industry numbers remain high.

Economic Impact Report: OF&MO is pleased to share our Economic Impact Report for the fiscal year 2010. In FY10, OF&MO recorded a total of 1,813 total productions for a direct economic impact of \$17,689,677. This direct impact translates to an economic impact of \$30,426,244 using the multiplier of 1.72. This is an increase of almost \$5M over fiscal year 2009's economic impact of \$25,655,542.

The increase is encouraging considering our country's continuing economic crisis. Strong impact numbers are critical to the film industry in Oklahoma in that they help us quantify the industry's growth statistically for our Oklahoma Legislature, a requirement for keeping the rebate program strong and growing. If you or your company has not been contacted by OF&MO, please let us know, as we would like to include your business and projects in this data. Please e-mail Chris Kucharski at chris@oklahomafilm.org for more information.

Public Relations & Industry Development

- Participated in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute's Film/Video Advisory Board Meeting in support of and to learn about changes for the 2011 summer program for high school students
- Attended the local premiere of Oklahoma-filmed feature *Heaven's Rain* at the Oklahoma City Science Museum
- Attended the September Tourism Commission Meeting in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
- Spoke to the Oklahoma City Professional Employers Organization group about the film and music industries in Oklahoma
- Attended Bartlesville's Fall Kick-Off event to discuss upcoming filming in the area
- Met with Norman native and Oklahoma musician Josh Roberts to discuss the Oklahoma music industry as well as SXSW 2011

- Met with Lance McDaniel of the deadCENTER Film Festival regarding education initiatives for filmmakers
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Oklahoma Music Trail at the Oklahoma Historical Society
- Met with journalist Aaron Wright Gray of the *Norman Transcript* for an interview and to update her on the current status of the film industry in Oklahoma
- Provided talent information to Loretta Jackson of the African American Historical Society regarding her charity event
- Provided a list of Oklahoma Talent Agencies to Madison Freeman
- Met with Oklahoman David Burkhart about his pilot television show, which is a showcase of original Oklahoma music
- Met with Jerrod Shouse regarding the upcoming 2011 Legislative Session
- Met with Jay Hannah of BancFirst in Oklahoma City to inform him of the film and music industries in Oklahoma
- Provided update on Oklahoma's film industry to journalist Janet Hudson Schroeder of Rockville Magazine and participated in photo shoot for upcoming issue
- Met with Tulsa businessman Eric Jenkins regarding Oklahoma film industry and potential projects
- Met with Oklahoma's Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Natalie Shirley and Oklahoma Department of Commerce's Brad Williams regarding legislative session 2011, and the film and music industries
- Met with Ryan Nickel and John White regarding their film project *Six Shooter* and provided them with information on the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate
- Met with Kari Snider of Cicero Advertising to discuss OF&MO's SXSW 2011 presence
- Met with Richard and Deborah Foster of Foster Entertainment to discuss their feature film
- Met with Ryan LaCroix of Oklahomarock.com and Jonathan Fowler of Norman Music Festival to discuss plans for SXSW 2011
- Met with Matthew Williamson of Clevyr to discuss SXSW 2011
- Met with Senator John Ford and Representative Earl Sears regarding current filming in their district and the upcoming legislative session

Industry Services and Technology Development

Music Industry Meeting: The final music industry meeting for 2010 took place on October 27 at the OF&MO Conference Room at the First National Center in Oklahoma City. With fifteen music professionals in attendance, topics ranged from the development of OF&MO's online music guide, Oklahoma's presence at SXSW 2011, the 2% rebate for the use of Oklahoma music in films and potential music legislation. The 2011 meeting dates will be announced in January. 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:

- Beth Reed, Pawhuska
- Justin Alberty, Grand River Dam Authority
- Joy Horton, Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino
- Alison Naifeh Dick, Oklahoma City
- Frank Crow, Bartlesville

Website Update: Since the official launch on June 9, 2010, OklahomaFilm.org, OF&MO has received positive feedback about the new Website, as well an increase in visitors. Unique users in September totaled 8,686 and October totals reached 7,756. The most popular pages continue to be the Oklahoma Production Guide, the 'Filming in Oklahoma' section, and the Jobs & Internships listings. Since the launch in June, on average the site is host to 300 visitors a day.

One new Website feature still in development is the Oklahoma Music Guide. Just as 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 Oklahoma musicians, support services and venues. Once it has launched, bands, venues, performers, and music businesses can register to be listed at no cost, and users will be able to browse the database to find talented artists of all genres, live music locations, and other music-related companies. It will be the first comprehensive music database of its type in Oklahoma.

This Week in Film & Music: In September, OF&MO launched a new application on Oklahomafilm.org: a new and improved version of our weekly e-newsletter, ***This Week in Film and Music***. The new e-newsletter uses a template to gather information from the Events Calendar on Oklahomafilm.org, which is the basis for the newsletter that can then be edited by OF&MO staff.

A live version of the newsletter is available every week online and is also e-mailed directly to subscribers. To sign up for ***This Week in Film and Music***, please visit the Website subscriptions page at: <http://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/oknotify/index.php?id=200>. Our subscription list is currently at 2,134.

As always, please check our events page on www.oklahomafilm.org for a full list of activities any day of the week.

OF&MO Internship Program: The OF&MO would like to officially welcome our new fall 2010 interns. Joining us this semester are Lauren Tucker and Skyeler Seaborn, both from the University of Oklahoma. Lauren has been extremely helpful with various office projects such as gathering materials for productions and events, writing homepage postings, as well as research. Skyeler has been busy writing for the events calendar, and helping with our weekly e-newsletter. We are happy to have these two talented students join our OF&MO team this semester!

For those interested in a spring 2011 semester internship with OF&MO, please e-mail your cover letter and resume to Abby Kurin at abby@oklahomafilm.org.

Production

Recent/Current Film/TV Production

- Assisted Tracy Trost of Trost Moving Pictures, LLC with their feature film, ***The Lamp***, which began filming in Oklahoma in October
- Provided ongoing support to the producers and locations manager of the untitled feature ***Project D***, currently filming in Oklahoma. Provided links to Oklahoma musicians and their music. Solicited submissions of music from short list of musicians that the producers expressed interest in considering for film soundtrack
- Provided Sally Finigan of Firecracker Films with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the filming of documentary project ***Night Terrors***
- Provided Damon Gambuto of Fame Films with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the documentary project ***Growing Up Fast***
- Provided Susie Moore of Al Roker Entertainment with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the recent television series ***My Life in Food***
- Provided Chad Watkins of Synergy Films with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding the recent television project for the ***NBA on TNT***
- Provided location information to producers and location scouts from ***Smugglers*** for a national television commercial
- Assisted Evangeline Wells of Film Yard Productions with permits and contact information for a national television commercial for Chesapeake
- Provided Adam Connors of the University of Tulsa with locations and contact information regarding a recent narrative short project
- Provided Kristin Wendell of Super Fine Films with contact information and other logistical support for a recent untitled film project

Upcoming Film/TV Production

- Provided Ward Mankin of nFocus Media with locations and permitting information and requested further project information regarding an upcoming commercial production
- Provided Clark Deal of Chaotic Studios with locations and permitting information regarding an upcoming commercial project
- Provided rebate information to New York-based producers Jen Gatien and Neda Armian for planned Oklahoma feature, ***Predisposed***

- Provided rebate information to Nancy Smith for the TV series *Cook Time with Remi*
- Provided location, support services, and rebate information to the producers of planned Oklahoma feature, *Yellow*
- Provided Brian Woodrum of Synergy Films with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding an upcoming television project
- Provided Richard Bowler of the Food Network with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding an upcoming untitled television production
- Provided Colleen Davis of Workforce Entertainment with locations and contact information regarding an upcoming commercial project
- Provided Christian Carroll of Harlequin Films with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the upcoming feature film *Suicide* (or *Lulu and Me in a World Made for Two*)
- Provided Alexander James of Poya Pictures with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding the upcoming television project *Rock the Route*
- Provided Catherine Gail of BBC Horizon with locations, contact and permitting information regarding an upcoming documentary television series

Potential Film/TV Production

- Provided locations information for Oklahoma City airport to producer Susan Kirr for feature film *360*
- Provided AMC TV with location photo links for upcoming 1860's western
- Provided location photo links to producers of *The Spectacular Now*, a project OF&MO had scouted with producers in the summer of 2009. The project, which had gone in to turnaround at Fox, has recently been resurrected and is once again moving forward with a new director
- Provided Adam Beatty with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding a potential untitled feature film project
- Provided April Vickers of Journey Church TV with locations, contact and permitting information regarding a potential untitled documentary project
- Provided Dennis Haysbert with production logistical information for potential project
- Provided Andrew Armstrong of Foothold Productions with locations, contact, and permitting information regarding a potential untitled feature film project
- Provided rebate information to Oklahoma filmmaker Adam Oxen for his potential feature film
- Provided rebate information to the producers of the feature docudrama *Cherokee Word for Water*
- Provided rebate information to Todd King of Silver Nitrate Films for a potential untitled feature film
- Provided Deana Spyles of Victory TV with locations, contact and permitting information regarding a potential narrative short *Walk it Out*
- Provided rebate information and guidelines to Glenn Gainor, Sr. VP of Production for Screen Gems
- Provided Filmmaker Brandt Warner with locations information and requested further project information regarding a potential untitled project
- Provided Denton Hanna of Denton Hanna Photography with locations information and requested further project information regarding a potential feature film project
- Provided Deven Sky of Bunker New York with locations information and requested further project information regarding a potential commercial project *Maille*
- Provided Justin Kenyon of Jackal King Productions with locations information and requested further project information regarding and upcoming untitled feature film project
- Provided Nelson Dunk of Skylight Productions with locations information regarding his potential corporate video shoot
- Provided producer Tom Luse with incentive information and guidelines as well as location information for horror film, *The Collection*

Media/Press/Ads

Newspaper & Magazine Articles:

September 2010 *Oklahoma Living*: “Hollywood Comes to Oklahoma” a feature cover story on Oklahoma’s growing film industry profiling OF&MO with extensive research and an in-depth interview with OF&MO Director Jill Simpson

September 9 *The Norman Transcript*: “Oklahoma Home to Burgeoning Film Scene” the first article in a two-part feature about Oklahoma’s growing film industry highlighting the rebate offered by OF&MO and featuring quotes from OF&MO Director Jill Simpson

September 10 *The Norman Transcript*: “Creative Minds Building Film Scene” the second article in a two-part feature about Oklahoma’s growing film industry highlighting the rebate offered by OF&MO and featuring quotes from OF&MO Director Jill Simpson

September 10 *EnidNews.com*: “Rebates Draw Filmmakers to Oklahoma” an excerpt from the two-part feature published by *The Norman Transcript* which highlights the rebate offered by OF&MO and features quotes from OF&MO Director Jill Simpson

September 17 *The Oklahoman*: “Bostonian Ben Affleck Sets Crime Thriller in Hometown” an article on Ben Affleck’s directorial film *The Town* which references OF&MO in relation to Affleck’s upcoming project which is unofficially rumored to begin production at the end of September in Oklahoma

October 2010 *P3 Update*: “Oklahoma” an article on the southwest highlighting Oklahoma’s growing film industry which discusses OF&MO’s rebate program and economic impact

October 6 *Tulsa World*: “It’s Official: Movie Crew Shoots in Bartlesville” an article about the filming in Bartlesville by Redbud Productions that mentions OF&MO

October 8 *The Oklahoman*: “It’s Official: Movie Crew Shoots in Bartlesville” a distribution of the *Tulsa World* article about the filming in Bartlesville by Redbud Productions that mentions OF&MO

October 8 *Tulsa World*: “Message of forgiveness at the heart of *A Christmas Snow*”

October 24 *The Oklahoman*: “Airline’s Boss Finds a New Frontier for Show” an article on the recent episode of ABC’s *Undercover Boss* which featured Oklahoma City’s Will Rogers Airport and Frontier Airline employees. The article includes a quote from OF&MO Deputy Director Julie Porter

Press Releases/Special Announcements/Website Postings:

September 3: “*Oklahoma Living* Magazine Writes Feature on Oklahoma Film & Music Office, Film Industry” an e-blast and homepage posting about OF&MO’s featured cover story in *Oklahoma Living* Magazine. The article highlights the role of OF&MO and discusses the overall film industry within Oklahoma

September 7: “*Heaven’s Rain* Press Screening” an e-blast publicizing the preview-press screening of *Heaven’s Rain*, a film shot and produced in Oklahoma

September 8: “Oklahoma Film to Screen at the American Indian Film Institute Film Festival” an e-blast and homepage posting announcing the screening of the Oklahoma-made film *Barking Water* in Los Angeles at the American Indian Film Institute Film Festival

September 8: “Oklahoma Film to be Released on DVD in November” a homepage posting celebrating the DVD release of *The Gunslingers*, a project produced and filmed in Oklahoma by filmmaker Adam Oxsen

September 8: “32nd Annual Independent Film Week” a homepage posting announcing the 32nd Annual Independent Film Week and Conference in New York City

September 9: “*Pearl* to Screen for Oklahoma Audiences” a homepage posting announcing the commercial screening of *Pearl*, a film shot and produced in Oklahoma

September 9: “Southern Winds Film Festival” a homepage posting promoting the 4th Annual Southern Winds Film Festival held in Shawnee

September 9: “*Heaven’s Rain* Screening” an e-blast publicizing the second screening of *Heaven’s Rain*, a film shot in Oklahoma

September 9: “Oklahoma Film to Screen at the American Indian Film Institute Film Festival”, an e-blast to publicize the screening of *Barking Water* in L.A. on September 11, 2010

September 10: “OF&MO Call for Fall Semester 2010 Interns Extended” an e-blast announcing the extension of OF&MO’s call for interns for the 2010 fall semester

September 17: “Norman Arts Council Holds Fall Fundraiser” a homepage posting promoting ONE, a fall event hosted by the Norman Arts Council which honors local Oklahoma talent

September 17: “Z-104.5 The Edge Seeks Musicians for CD” a homepage posting announcing a call for musicians to be featured on “Homegroan,” the annual compilation album of Oklahoma artists produced by Z-104.5 The Edge

September 17: “ETHEL Releases New Album Featuring the Works of Chickasaw Student Composers” a homepage posting promoting the release of ETHEL’s newest album which features the works of young Native American students from the Chickasaw Nation Summer Arts Academy of Ada under the instruction of composer-in-residence Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate

October 8: “Trost Moving Pictures Announces Oklahoma Film Production” a homepage posting announcing the beginning of production on Trost Moving Picture’s latest film, *The Lamp*

October 12: “2010 Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Concert” a homepage posting announcing the 2010 Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Concert

Upcoming Oklahoma Film & Music Office Activities/Sponsorships

AFCI Cineposium/DGA Filmmakers’ Forum
Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Advisory Board Meeting
Hands and Hearts Fundraiser
Creativity World Forum
OTRD Tourism Commission Meeting
Film Friendly Workshop: Green Country
SXSW Film & Music Festival

October 29-November 3, Los Angeles
November 4, Muskogee
November 9, Oklahoma City
November 14, Wooten
November 15-17, Oklahoma City
November 17, Oklahoma City
February 4, 2011, Bartlesville
March 11-20, 2011, Austin, TX