



Activity Report **December 2011 - January 2012**

Points of Interest

Oklahoma Film Rebate Queue:

On January 3, The Oklahoma Film & Music Office reopened its rebate queue to begin accepting applications for FY13 rebate funds. While OF&MO received numerous applications on January 3, we were only able to prequalify the first application received on that date, as the project depleted all FY13 rebate funds. *August Osage County*, a feature film based on the Tony and Pulitzer prize winning play written by native Oklahoman Tracy Letts, is slated for 2012.

Sadly, the Oklahoma Film & Music Office was unable to prequalify approximately six film projects for which we received rebate applications the same day. We have also had to turn away about a half dozen additional high caliber film projects throughout the month of January. This is due to the fact that the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program, along with at least forty other tax credits and incentives for business in Oklahoma, are being targeted by some lawmakers for abolishment during the 2012 Legislative Session.

2012 Legislative Session:

To date, two bills have been filed that include language to both **reduce and to cancel** the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program:

1. **Senate Bill (SB) 1435** (Section 7, page 93 of this 94-page bill) would **repeal the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program, effective immediately upon passage**. It is important to note that, as is customary in legislation, the repealer language is not underlined as a proposed change in the text of the measure, so could easily be missed by those reviewing and considering this bill.
2. **Senate Bill (SB) 1623**, (Section 33, page 176 of this 186-page bill), recommends, among other things, **reducing the current 35-37% film rebate to 17.5% as of January 1, 2013**. The bill further sets forth **that no rebate be payable on or after January 1, 2014, thereby shortening by six months the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate's current statutory sunset date of July 1, 2014**.

You can find the text of these two measures by clicking on the link below and scrolling and clicking on the bill numbers listed above: <http://newlsb.lsb.state.ok.us/tomshell.aspx>

Talking Points for Supporting Your Oklahoma Film Industry:

As we are all aware, doing away with the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program will all but kill the film production industry in Oklahoma that we have all worked so hard to build in recent years. The fact that OF&MO had to turn away almost a dozen projects in the first week of January due to lack of incentives tells a very compelling story of how our industry has not only begun to grow, but to thrive in the last couple of years. In an effort to save this important economic generator for our state, OF&MO is providing some talking points to you, the stakeholders, so that you may effectively communicate them to others:

- **The return in direct dollars for Oklahoma as a result of the rebate program is 3 to 1 for FY12.** For every dollar paid out in rebate money, films are spending triple that in Oklahoma on labor, goods and services. We are using no multiplier in this calculation. That is an excellent return.
- **Economic impact numbers are up 400%** over where they were just five years ago. Oklahoma's film industry economic impact is now at approximately **\$40 million per year and growing**.
- The Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program is both **transparent** and **fiscally responsible**. The program is administered evenly across the board on a **first come-first served basis** according to stringent and clear **published guidelines**. All productions are now required to undergo an **Independent Third Party CPA Review** by a pre-approved accounting firm **at the production's expense** prior to submitting their final rebate claim.
- The program is a **rebate** not a tax credit. A production must spend money in the state and the rebate is given **only to taxable transactions in Oklahoma after the money has been spent here**.
- **The rebate program is being used to maximum capacity** with all of both FY12 and FY13 funds being prequalified before the fiscal years began.
- While the film industry is still in its infancy in Oklahoma and is only beginning to create full-time jobs (158 in FY10 according to a Meinders School of Business Economic Impact Study), it is growing a **series of temporary jobs that are portable – similar to jobs in construction and oil and gas**.
- Film locations are **spread across the state**; the jobs move with productions, which **benefits even our smallest communities** at a time when many are experiencing economic challenges.
- The State of Oklahoma is **not required to frontload the film industry by footing the bill for workforce training and infrastructure**. Both are created as production companies infuse new money into our economy.
- **They will not come anyway**. Some lawmakers believe films will come into the state without incentives. We can easily disprove this with just two examples in the last few months where productions were happy to take their business elsewhere, even out of the country for the sake of incentives:
 - 1) Warner Brothers relocated *Thunderstruck*, a film about the OKC Thunder and Kevin Durant to Baton Rouge when Oklahoma had no film incentives to offer, handing over those film jobs, the millions of dollars in economic impact and priceless positive PR to the state of Louisiana. Oklahoma was left with only a few scenes shot in Oklahoma City: three days of pick up shots in January.
 - 2) Extensive pre-scouting for *Robopocalypse* was done in Oklahoma last summer. The film, to be directed by Steven Spielberg, is based on a book by a Tulsa native and is set in futuristic Oklahoma. Oklahoma had run out of incentives money. Originally, that was not a major concern for Dreamworks. However, when Fox Studios joined Dreamworks as a partner on the project, the film was promptly relocated to Canada based on incentives.

OF&MO will be in touch with an update soon. The 2012 legislative session begins on Monday, February 6. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information at filminfo@oklahomafilm.org or 405.230.8440.

Thunderstruck:

A Warner Brothers Studios production crew was in Oklahoma City the week of January 23 to film scenes for the upcoming feature film, *Thunderstruck*, starring NBA star and Thunder player, Kevin Durant. The crew filmed for three days at several locations around downtown Oklahoma City and in the Chesapeake Energy Arena during the day as well as during live NBA games. The film is set for release in 2012. Working with OF&MO, "Discover Oklahoma" was able to interview crew and cast members during filming for future broadcast.

Oklahoma was unable to secure the majority of filming for this feature about the Thunder and Kevin Durant due to a depleted FY12 rebate fund. Attempts were made to raise the equivalent of the anticipated rebate amount from private sources in Oklahoma to allow filming to occur here. Those efforts were thwarted due to restrictions imposed by the NBA during the lockout. Instead, the producers filmed all but a few scenes in Baton Rouge (doubling for Oklahoma City) where they spent millions of dollars and, in turn, received ample Louisiana film incentives. The film has garnered daily media attention throughout filming due to the public's growing interest in Mr. Durant as well as big name sponsors such as Nike.

Film Friendly Oklahoma:

During January, OF&MO hosted two *Film Friendly Oklahoma* workshops. The goal of the workshops is twofold: 1) To inform communities on what is required to attract film productions to their area, and 2) to make recommendations for successfully hosting productions and maximizing the community's economic impact when they come in. The first workshop on January 19 was held at the Quartz Mountain Resort in Lonewolf, and welcomed representatives from the **Great Plains Country** communities of **Mangum, Frederick, Duncan, Altus, Medicine Park, Waynoka** and **Temple**. In addition, there were attendees from the **Oklahoma Department of Commerce** and the **Great Plains Country Association**. The workshop was hosted by former OF&MO staff member and professional locations consultant, Chris Kucharski, and OF&MO Development Coordinator, Abby Kurin. Thank you to Jessica Coody from the Great Plains Country Association who helped identify and invite attendees.

A second Film Friendly workshop was held on January 26 in Woodward for the communities of the **Red Carpet Country**. In attendance were representatives from **Buffalo, Laverne, Kingfisher, Woodward, Waynoka, Alva, Enid, Guymon, Shattuck, Hennessey** and **Ponca City**. This workshop was hosted by Chris Kucharski and OF&MO Director, Jill Simpson. A thank you to Debbie Hickman, Jennifer Newton and other staff of the Woodward Convention & Visitors Bureau for their help in organizing the workshop.

Having hosted our first Film Friendly workshop in Green Country in 2011, OF&MO intends to cover all remaining Oklahoma "Countries" in 2012, with workshops in the planning phase for Frontier, Chickasaw and Kiamichi Countries. If you are interested in hosting any of the three remaining workshops in your community, please contact Yousef Kazemi at Yousef@oklahomafilm.org.

Oklahoma's Buffalo Lounge at South By Southwest 2012:

Oklahoma will once again have a presence at the South By Southwest Festival and Conference (SXSW) in Austin, TX. The successful concept, The Buffalo Lounge, will return to 6th street in Austin, TX from March 12-15 to promote Oklahoma's film, interactive, and music industries. In addition to the venue, Oklahoma will also have a booth at the SXSW Tradeshow to maximize exposure.

On December 15, OF&MO and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber hosted a luncheon to bring sponsors and potential sponsors together to discuss the festival and brainstorm ideas to make the experience better for all entities involved. A follow-up luncheon was held by both organizations on January 24 in an effort to continue fundraising with potential sponsors and provide an update to current sponsors in hopes of maximizing all Oklahoma industries that will be represented at SXSW.

An official press release will be issued in early February with information on sponsors, and specific details regarding SXSW. To receive press releases from OF&MO, please sign up here: <http://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/oknotify/index.php?id=200>

For information on The Buffalo Lounge, sponsorships, or any other questions, please e-mail Abby Kurin at abby@oklahomafilm.org

Public Relations & Industry Development

- Met with Dave Hanon and Lauren Rust of Gray Hour regarding Production Services for *Yellow* and to discuss the Oklahoma film events at South By Southwest 2012
- Met with Sean Lynch about final rebate application for *Just Crazy Enough*
- Provided a list of Oklahoma Talent Agencies to Yovan Brindou, James Jennings, Cortnie Garrett, Jenny Miller, and Nicole Denise
- Met with Cynthia Reid of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber to discuss industry activities
- Met with Rob Crissinger of Rob Crissinger PR and University of Oklahoma student Stuart Downey to discuss the public relations industry as it pertains to the entertainment industry
- Met with Brian Horton of Horton Records and The New Tulsa Sound regarding the music industry in Oklahoma
- Met with Ryann Hanes-Sloan of Matthew Kenney Cuisine to discuss Oklahoma's presence at South By Southwest Festival and Conference 2012

- Met with Brian Paschal of TYPros, and Kate Hoback regarding their Street CRed event in Tulsa
- Met with Courtney Campbell of This Land Press to discuss Oklahoma's presence at South By Southwest Festival and Conference 2012
- Met with Vanessa Garnick and Lawrence Field of Flying V Productions to discuss the project A Cowboy's Creed and provide rebate information
- Tourism Executive Director Deby Snodgrass, Tourism Promotions Director Sandy Pantlik and OF&MO Director Jill Simpson met with design firm Frankfurt, Short, Bruza Associates to discuss Oklahoma Music Trail markers
- Met with SP Eaton and Ty Dixon regarding their Okiewood Productions

Industry Services and Technology Development

Website Update: www.oklahomafilm.org

- Unique visitors
 - December 2011 3,803 (unique visitors) 10,641 (total visitors)
 - January 2012 2,255 (unique visitors) 5,304 (total visitors)
- Most popular pages
 - Jobs & Internships
 - Filming in Oklahoma
 - Production Guide

Music Guide: Pre-registration continues for 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. 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. As of 1/26/12, there have been 32 music businesses and 56 musicians registered on the Music Guide and the expected launch date is **Wednesday, February 15**.

This Week in Film & Music: To sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, *This Week in Film & Music*, please visit the Website subscriptions page at: <http://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/oknotify/index.php?id=200>. Current circulation is 2,338.

OF&MO Internship Program: Intern candidates were interviewed for the internship program throughout December. Selected for the Spring 2012 semester are: Stuart Downey (University of Oklahoma); Larissa Lynn (University of Oklahoma); Laron Chapman (University of Oklahoma); and Courtney Cuniff (University of Oklahoma). Adam Wright (University of Central Oklahoma) has continued his internship with OF&MO, having previously served for two semesters.

Music Industry Meeting: The 2012 dates for the Music Industry meetings have not been announced. We hope to have those dates available soon. To be added to the list to receive an e-mail update about the meeting and others, please visit <http://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/oknotify/index.php?id=200>.

Film Industry Meeting: The 2012 dates for the Film Industry meetings have not been announced. We hope to have those dates available soon. To be added to the list to receive e-mail updates about upcoming meetings and other items, please visit <http://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/oknotify/index.php?id=200>.

Production

Recent/Current Film/TV Production

- Provided Joe Pollaro of Pollaro Media with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the filming of his commercial production
- Worked with City of Oklahoma City, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the Bricktown Association and various private companies to secure parking in downtown lots for Warner Bros feature, *Thunderstruck*
- Provided Payton Dunham of Louisiana Premiere Productions LLC with locations, permitting, and contact information regarding the filming of *Thunderstruck*

- Continued to track payments and locations settlements for feature film *Yellow*

Upcoming Film/TV Production

- Provided Chris Kucharski of Rush Independent with permitting support for the filming of an upcoming commercial production

Potential Film/TV Production

- Sent locations package to Shannon McIntosh of The Weinstein Company regarding an upcoming feature film
- Sent location forms and requested more information from Sandra Danderson regarding an upcoming film production
- Sent location forms and requested more information from Paul Taggart of Bloomberg News regarding an upcoming television segment
- Sent locations information to Sam Perkins of Harvest Films regarding an upcoming commercial production

Media/Press/Ads

Newspaper, Magazine and Online Articles:

December 2 *Tulsa World*: “Oklahoma Filmmaker Earns Independent Spirit Award Nomination” an article about Oklahoma native Chad Burris, who was nominated for the Piaget Producers Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards

December 3 *NewsOK.com*: “Oklahoma City Shines in New Kevin Durant Nike Commercial” an article about Durant’s Basketball Never Stops Campaign commercial, which was shot almost entirely in Oklahoma City over a four-day span

December 6 *StateofCreativity.com*: “Producer with Oklahoma Ties Nominated for a 2012 Film Independent Spirit Award” an article about Oklahoma native Chad Burris, who was nominated for the Piaget Producers Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards

December 13 *Edmond Sun*: “History Center Launches Website for New Movie Exhibit” an article about the Oklahoma History Center’s Website for its upcoming exhibition, Oklahoma at the Movies

December 14 *NewsOK.com*: “Poster for Oklahoma-Made Movie ‘*Cowgirls N’ Angels*’ Debuts” an article announcing the release of the official movie poster for the Oklahoma-produced film *Cowgirls N’ Angels*

December 21 *23rd and Lincoln*: “Dank to Seek Extension of Moratorium to July 2013, Expand It to Include All Tax Credits While Legislators Consider Task Force Recommendations” an article about Rep. David Dank’s proposal to extend tax credit moratoriums that affect the Film Enhancement Rebate Program

December 22 *StateImpact.npr.org*: “The Task Force is Done, But the Tax Credit Battle Has Just Begun” an article about the Tax Credit Task Force, Rep. Dank’s proposals and opposition to certain recommendations, featuring a quote from Director Jill Simpson defending the Film Enhancement Rebate Program

January 3 *About.com*: “Oklahoma Music Database” an article about OF&MO’s upcoming Music Guide

January 7 *Professionalactorsguide.com*: “Saturday Film Incentive News Wrap-Up” an article about national trends and news in state film incentive programs, discussing the Oklahoma Tax Task Force’s proposed one-year moratorium on tax credits

January 9 *SXSW.com*: “2012 Trade Show Exhibitors” a posting providing information about Oklahoma’s booth and activities at SXSW

January 11 *Newson6.com*: “Movie Shot in Bartlesville in 2010 To Be Released Sometime in 2012” an article providing information about the Oklahoma-shot Untitled Terrence Malick feature

January 13 *Yahoo! Sports*: “Kevin Durant’s Movie Has An Official Pun-Filled Title” an article about Thunder player Kevin Durant’s Warner Premier film, *Thunderstruck*. While primarily filmed in Baton Rouge, LA, the article announces that certain scenes will be filmed in Oklahoma City

January 14 *Tulsa World*: “‘*Thunderstruck*’ Title Announced for Kevin Durant Film” an article announcing the name and plot details of the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 14 *Tulsa World*: “Celebrating 10th Anniversary” an article about the Southern Hills Baptist Church chapter of Celebrate Recovery, mentioning the program will be featured in Oklahoma-produced feature film *Home Run*

January 16 *IamaGM.com*: “Kevin Durant to Star in Movie Titled ‘*Thunderstruck*’” an article providing information about the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 17 *NESN.com*: “Kevin Durant Will Star in Movie ‘*Thunderstruck*’ as NBA Player with Talents of High School Klutz” an article providing information about the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 18 NewsOK.com: “Thunder Notebook: Kevin Durant Film Seeking Extras” an article announcing a casting call for extras for *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 19 Tulsa World: “Kevin Durant Film Calls for Extras” an article announcing a casting call for extras for *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 23 SportsGrid.com: “Casting Call for Kevin Durant Movie ‘*Thunderstruck*’” an article announcing a casting call for extras for *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 23 Mlive.com: “Detroit Pistons Finish Game-Day Shootaround Just in Time to Clear the Floor for Movie Scene” an article providing information about filming in Oklahoma City for *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 24 TheWashingtonPost.com: “Kevin Durant’s movie “*Thunderstruck*” brings Hollywood to Oklahoma City” an Associated Press article that provides information about *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant feature that was partly shot in Oklahoma City

January 24 SanFranciscoExaminer.com: “Kevin Durant’s movie “*Thunderstruck*” brings Hollywood to Oklahoma City” an Associated Press article that provides information about *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant feature that was partly shot in Oklahoma City

January 24 WFTV.com: “Kevin Durant’s movie “*Thunderstruck*” brings Hollywood to Oklahoma City” an Associated Press article that provides information about *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant feature that was partly shot in Oklahoma City

January 24 MySanAntonio.com: “Kevin Durant’s movie “*Thunderstruck*” brings Hollywood to Oklahoma City” an Associated Press article that provides information about *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant feature that was partly shot in Oklahoma City

January 24 SportsIllustrated.cnn.com: “Durant’s Movie Brings Hollywood to Oklahoma City” an article providing information about scenes filmed in Oklahoma City for *Thunderstruck*, the upcoming Kevin Durant film

January 24 Tulsa World: “Scorsese’s ‘Hugo’ leads Oscars 11 Nominations” an article providing information about two Oscar nominations garnered by people with Oklahoma ties, Terrence Malick and Matthew W. Mungle

January 27 Woodward News: “Area Communities Learn to Become Film Friendly,” an article featured on the front page about OF&MO’s Film Friendly Oklahoma Workshop

Press Releases/Special Announcements/Website Postings:

December 2: “Fifth Annual Norman Music Festival Announces Open Call for Bands” a homepage posting and newsroom article announcing an open call for bands interested in performing in the fifth annual Norman Music Festival

December 2: “Producer with Oklahoma Ties Nominated for a 2012 Film Independent Spirit Award” an e-blast, homepage posting, and newsroom article announcing Chad Burris, Oklahoma native of the Chickasaw Nation was nominated for the 15th annual Piaget Producers Award for his film, *Mosquita y Mari*

December 8: “Oklahoma Musicians Team Up for Free Christmas Album and Concert” a homepage posting and newsroom article announcing a free album put together by Oklahoma musicians, Fowler Volkswagen and Blackwatch Studios of Norman

December 14: “*Haunted Collector* Casting Announcement” a posting in the casting announcements section of the website announcing a call for people who have experienced cases of paranormal activity to be featured on the Sy-Fy reality show, *Haunted Collector*

January 6: “Tulsa Native Nominated for Art Director’s Guild Production Design Award” an e-blast, homepage posting, and newsroom article announcing Tulsa native K.K. Barrett received a nomination for the 16th annual Excellence in Production Design Awards for the film, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

January 18: “6th Annual Trail Dance Film Festival Tickets Now on Sale” a homepage posting and newsroom article announcing that tickets for the 6th Annual Trail Dance Film Festival are now available for purchase online

January 18: “Call for Extras for Warner Brothers Feature Film *Thunderstruck*” an e-blast, homepage posting and newsroom article announcing a casting call for extras to portray passersby and neighbors in street scenes of the film *Thunderstruck*

January 20: “United Filmmakers of Oklahoma to Host Independent Filmmakers Showcase” a homepage posting and newsroom article announcing the United Filmmakers will host an Independent Filmmakers Showcase

January 20: “Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute Now Scheduling Auditions” an e-blast, homepage posting, and newsroom article announcing OSAI is scheduling auditions

Upcoming Oklahoma Film & Music Office Activities/Sponsorships

2012 Legislative Session Begins

February 6

South by Southwest/The Buffalo Lounge 2012

March 9-18/12-15

Film & Music Advisory Board Meeting

April 17, 9:30A, State Capitol