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August 4, 2021

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Application Portal Opening August 10 for Oklahoma's New Film Incentive Program

Beginning August 10, 2021, film and television projects interested in applying for production incentives under the 'Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021' may do so by accessing the program's application portal available via the Oklahoma Film + Music Office (OF+MO) website.

Authorized by Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt on May 24, 2021, SB 608 established the 'Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021' further increasing the state's total film incentive cap and eligibility threshold to host major motion pictures and television series. Of the total \$30 million by the program per fiscal year, \$7.2 million must be allocated to productions with budgets less than \$7.5 million, while \$22.5 million must be allocated to productions with budgets greater than \$7.2 million. Additionally, the 'Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021' has specific mechanisms in place to further grow local workforce and infrastructure while stimulating economic impact throughout the state. A ceremonial signing for the 'Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021' was held on August 3, 2021, at which time Oklahoma Governor Stitt issued a proclamation declaring the date 'Film Day' in Oklahoma.

"I am optimistic that the success of our thriving film and music industries will continue to flourish through this incentive program," said Governor Kevin Stitt. "These rebates will attract productions that lead to a diversified workforce, high quality jobs and increased revenue for ancillary services. Film and music provide opportunities for Oklahomans, and I look forward to the continued expansion of these valuable industries."

The 'Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021' offers a base rebate of up to 20% to qualified film and television productions working in Oklahoma with additional uplifts for filming in rural municipalities/counties, qualified soundstages, post-production and television pilots/seasons. Eligible productions must have a minimum budget of at least \$50,000 to qualify. Authored by Senator Chuck Hall and Representative Scott Fetgatter, the 'Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021', which replaces the state's previous film incentive program known as the 'Compete with Canada Act', will allow Oklahoma to successfully retain its current independent film production clientele, many of whom are repeat customers or local filmmakers, while simultaneously working to attract higher impact studio

productions to the state. Headed by Director Tava Maloy Sofsky, the Oklahoma Film + Music Office (OF+MO) will continue to administer the program under its new home at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

“I am thrilled to celebrate Oklahoma’s vibrant film and music industries and this historic milestone. I commend Tava and her team for laying a strong foundation and setting the stage for economic development in our state, as well as Oklahoma’s passionate film and music community on the passing of this incredible incentive,” Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development Scott Mueller said. “Their continued efforts will result in high quality jobs for Oklahomans in this exciting field and help to further diversify Oklahoma’s economy.”

Despite the lingering effects of the pandemic, Oklahoma has been and remains open for business with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt declaring the motion picture and sound recording industries essential businesses last June. Since that time, the state has hosted dozens of independent and studio productions through the recruitment efforts of OF+MO in collaboration with state and city leadership, including two back-to-back feature films from Lionsgate “The Unbreakable Boy” and “American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story”, the FX Network’s “Reservation Dogs”, “Out of Exile”, “Ida Red”, and the continued filming of the Apple Studios production “Killers of the Flower Moon”. Most recently, in Fiscal Year 21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), OF+MO estimates the 33 film and television productions qualified for the state’s incentive will create more local career opportunities with a direct fiscal impact of \$161.7 million.

With added infrastructure from the recent establishment of organizations such as Prairie Surf Media, Green Pastures Studio and the Cherokee Nation Virtual Soundstage offering studio facilities, Oklahoma’s local infrastructure continues to expand to welcome productions of all kinds. Equally, the state’s music sector is on the rise with state-of-the-art recording studios and post-production houses ready to support the new film program, which offers added incentives to retain this work in Oklahoma, further employing and engaging music industry members and services. The longstanding support from local film offices, including the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture and the Cherokee Nation Film Office, paired with the ongoing efforts of statewide communities to achieve ‘film friendly designation’ through OF+MO’s rebranded Oklahoma Film Friendly Community Program - like the cities of El Reno, Shawnee and Broken Arrow have recently accomplished - signal that the state is open for business and primed to continue the growth and trajectory of the film and television industry.

“With the support of our state and city leadership including Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, we look forward to ushering in a new era of film and television in Oklahoma as we launch the program application portal for the ‘Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021’,” said OF+MO Director Tava Maloy Sofsky. “We recognize our dedicated local film workforce, infrastructure, educators and communities who’ve all played in an invaluable role in the success of Oklahoma’s film and television industry thus far and will continue to do so as we welcome new and returning business to the state in the promising season ahead.”

For more information on Oklahoma’s film infrastructure, workforce and other resources,

including the rebate portal application opening on August 10, 2021, visit okfilmmusic.org.

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About the Oklahoma Film + Music Office:

Under the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Oklahoma Film + Music Office (OF+MO) works to promote the state as a viable hub for film, television and music production as well as further develop opportunities for workforce, business and community growth within these sectors. For more information on the Oklahoma Film + Music Office, including the state's film incentives and additional resources, visit okfilmmusic.org.