

Governor Bill Richardson announces another feature film for New Mexico

Film incentives continue to lure film and television productions

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Contact: Billy Sparks
505.476.2299

Los Lunas, NM - Governor Bill Richardson today announced that his determined efforts to promote New Mexico's film incentives to Hollywood have brought yet another feature film to New Mexico. "Around the Bend," written and directed by Jordan Roberts, and starring Michael Caine, Christopher Walken, Josh Lucas, Jonah Bobo, and Glenna Headley is set to shoot in Los Lunas, Las Cruces, and the greater Albuquerque area. The film will begin shooting near the end of November.

"I am tremendously pleased that our efforts are producing immediate results, creating more than 80 million dollars in economic impact in the past year, hundreds of jobs and allowing our crafts people to gain the experience and the credits they need to maintain a lucrative career in film production."

Governor Bill Richardson, working with the New Mexico Legislature, enacted several proactive initiatives aimed at attracting more film production in the state. The incentives include:

- No-interest loans - up to \$7.5 million per project - for qualified feature projects
- A 15% rebate on all film expenditures taxable in the State of New Mexico - with no cap - that applies to both production and post-production costs.
- Workforce Training money for companies that use New Mexico production crews.
- Free use of 800 state buildings and 800,000 acres of state land available
- "Be Our Guest" program, which offers free hotels, meals and rentals cars, and full access to our experienced locations team
- Free access to our Film Office's Native American Casting database with 1100 participants

Governor Richardson also announced that he will also be perfecting legislation to offer the 15% rebate up front, and his administration is working with the unions to form a non-profit prop, scene and wardrobe inventory available to productions for free.

"More than 150 film executives and location managers attended our forum last Friday and I am sure New Mexico's film industry will continue to grow," said Governor Bill Richardson.

"We are just beginning to see the huge local economic impact on communities like Los Lunas. These productions will pump millions of dollars into our local economies,

increase tourist interests and help promote New Mexico around the world. Current legislation requires film producers to hire New Mexicans and they are at good wages,” Governor Richardson said.

“Around the Bend”, a six million dollar independent movie, will be the ninth feature film to be shot in New Mexico this year. The economic impact from the film industry in New Mexico has risen 1,000 %, going from \$8 million to \$80 million in just one year.

Films shot in New Mexico so far this year include Ron Howard’s “The Missing,” “21 Grams,” “Blind Horizon,” “Off the Map,” “Coyote Waits,” “Thief of Time.” “Elvis Has Left the Building,” “Mall Cops and “Formosa” all just completed shooting in Albuquerque.

Governor Richardson met with Warner Independent Pictures Executive Vice President of Production Michael Andreen on Friday November 7, in Los Angeles to discuss the project shooting in New Mexico. “We are pleased to be shooting “Around the Bend” in such a film-friendly place as New Mexico. When we were scouting film locations, we were stunned by the offices and production environment that the State would make available to us free of charge,” said Mr. Andreen.

“I estimate that the combined savings from the State’s incentive package will be approximately \$450,000, which for a film with a six million dollar budget makes the difference between making the movie and not making the movie,” said Elliott Lewitt, producer for “Around the Bend.”

“Around the Bend” is filming at the Old Training facility in Los Lunas. They will also shoot at the old General Aviation Terminal in Albuquerque. Both locations were chosen largely due to the incentives that make state buildings available free of charge.

The film is also taking advantage of the highly successful Workforce Training Program. The film component to this program allows film productions to be reimbursed 50% of trainees’ wages for up to 1,040 hours of work. The New Mexico Legislature appropriated \$1-million for the program.

“It’s exciting to see so many New Mexicans having an opportunity to not only work on this feature film, but that many are being given opportunity to take on new levels of responsibility,” said Director of the Film Office Division of the NM Economic Development Department Frank Zuniga.

“Around the Bend” is Roberts’ feature film directorial debut. He has been involved in “Road to Perdition,” “Barnes,” and “Bye Bye Brooklyn.” “Around the Bend” is produced by Elliot Lewitt and Julie Kirkham.

In “Around the Bend,” Roberts tells a story of four generations of men who haven’t seen each other in years, who are suddenly brought together by the chance to uncover the truth

about their family's past. It's a journey that takes them out on the road to a world full of surprises - some comic, some dramatic, and all of them personal.

Warner Brothers Independent Pictures, founded in August 2003, finances, produces, acquires and will theatrically distribute up to 10 feature films per year. Warner Brothers Entertainment is based in Burbank, California.