



## State of New Mexico

### *Office of the Governor*

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## **Governor Richardson Announces Feature Film to Shoot in Silver City**

**Film will star three Academy Award-winning Actresses  
Production will offer 120- 150 crew positions for New Mexicans, and  
500 extras.**

SILVER CITY, NM- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the Warner Bros. feature film *The Untitled Mining Project*, will shoot in Silver City and other New Mexico locations.

“This is a great day for southwest New Mexico,” said Governor Richardson. “It means hundreds of high-wage jobs, new opportunities, and millions of dollars for the Silver City and Grant County economies. Our industry-leading incentives, eager and qualified workforce, and the unequaled beauty of New Mexico continue to fuel the growth and success of our film industry.”

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> film and television production to be shot in New Mexico since Governor Richardson took office in 2003, with an estimated economic impact during that time of \$162 million, including commercials, films and television projects, as well as pre and post-production.

The Warner Bros. Pictures film in association with Participant Productions is produced by Nick Wechsler and directed by Niki Caro (“Whale Rider”) from a screenplay by Michael Seitzman. It stars Academy Award winners Charlize Theron (Best Actress for “Monster,” “The Italian Job,” “Cider House Rules”) Sissy Spacek (“In the Bedroom,” Best Actress for “Coal Miner’s Daughter”) and Frances McDormand, (Best Actress for

“Fargo,” “Something’s Gotta Give,” “Laurel Canyon”), and has begun pre-production and will shoot in Silver City and other locations in New Mexico and Minnesota.

The story is set in Minnesota, but through the extraordinary cooperation of Phelps Dodge Mining Company, Warner Bros. Pictures will film a substantial portion of the movie in New Mexico. Principal photography is scheduled begin at the end of January in Minnesota for exterior work, and will move to New Mexico in March.

Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans praised Phelps Dodge for working with Warner Bros. Pictures production executives over the past few months to go through all the logistics of filming in an operational mine. “We are extremely grateful to the team at Phelps Dodge for their enthusiasm, their involvement with the filmmakers, and their kind cooperation,” said Homan.

The film is inspired by the first major successful sexual harassment case in the United States -- Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines, where a woman who endured a range of abuse while working as a miner filed and won the landmark 1984 lawsuit. The story was detailed in a book by Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy Gansler.

“New Mexico’s film incentives, the wonderful cooperation we have received from Phelps Dodge, and the extraordinary assistance we’ve received from Lisa Strout and the Film Office all contributed to our decision to shoot in New Mexico,” said producer Nick Wechsler.

The New Mexico Film Office will host a Production Assistant class in Silver City at the beginning of the year to assist local residents who are interested in working on the production. A local director is planning on offering a preparatory class for extras, to give them the basics of working on a film set. In addition, the local filmmakers union, IATSE 480, is looking for experienced welders to work on the film.

Since some of the filming will be at the Chino and Cobre mines, Phelps Dodge will be providing hazard training and safety supervisors for film crews on its property.

"The movie industry offers some wonderful opportunities for New Mexico. We're pleased that we could play a part in bringing this production here, and we're grateful to the governor for his leadership in economic development," said Tim Snider, president and chief operating officer of Phelps Dodge Corporation.

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