



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces Feature Film to Shoot in Albuquerque

SILVER CITY, NM- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the El Camino Pictures feature film *First Snow* will shoot in Albuquerque. The film will star Guy Pierce (Memento, LA Confidential.) The production expects that 85 percent of its crew - 45 people- to be New Mexicans. The Governor made the announcement during a news conference in Silver City, where he also revealed another feature film, currently untitled, will shoot in Silver City and other locations.

“This is a great day for New Mexico - two feature films in one day,” said Governor Richardson. “The word is getting out- New Mexico is open for film business. We’re continuing to train and grow our workforce, and we’re creating an industry base that promises to be vibrant for years to come. These films mean high-wage and new opportunities jobs for our citizens, and millions of dollars for the New Mexico economy.”

First Snow, which will be directed by Mark Fergus and is written by Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby, is being produced by Bob Yari (Love Song for Bobby Long), Sean Furst, Bryan Furst (The Cooler), Tom Lassally (Stay), and Robyn Meisinger (Twisted). The writers and the director are represented by William Morris Agency. *First Snow* tells the story concerning a man who falls into a psychological tailspin when a psychic predicts his death.

“Thanks to the Governor’s leadership, the best incentives in the country, a first-class film office and great locations, New Mexico is continuing to enjoy success after success in bringing films to New Mexico,” said EDD Secretary Rick Homans.

The film, the 25th to shoot in New Mexico since Governor Richardson took office, will be in pre-production in January and February 2005 and will begin its 30-day shooting schedule in mid-February. It will be filmed entirely in Albuquerque, which is the setting for the story.

“We thank the State of New Mexico for providing us an opportunity to shoot *First Snow* in their state and to keep our production close to home,” stated producer Bob Yari. “The incentives were an important part of our decision to shoot here and we are delighted that New Mexico supports independent filmmakers with opportunities like this.”

“*First Snow* was written to be shot in Albuquerque not only because of the city's uniquely picturesque environment, but also because of its abundance of attractive production incentives, including a talented crew base, a host of financial benefits and a very supportive film commission. We're looking forward to a fun and successful experience,” stated producer Sean Furst.

“It’s wonderful to have a film where Albuquerque gets to play itself,” said New Mexico Film Office Director Lisa Strout. “Director Mark Fergus clearly grasps the beauty and unique character of our state.”

“We are delighted to have a film that not only will provide jobs and opportunity, but will also showcase Albuquerque,” said Albuquerque Film Liaison Ann Lehner.

El Camino Pictures - An alliance between the Yari Film Group and William Morris Independent, El Camino reaffirms the well-known agency's commitment and passion for independent films. The venture, a film financing entity fully owned and backed by the Yari Film Group, is making early inroads in the independent marketplace with such film projects as *Haven*, starring Orlando Bloom and Bill Paxton, which premiered at the 2004 Toronto Film Festival; and *Love Song for Bobby Long*, starring John Travolta and Scarlett Johansson, for which she received a Golden Globe nomination. The film is being distributed by Lions Gate in December 2004.

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