



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson praises Film Successes

Film Office landed 25 film and TV productions with an economic impact of \$162 million since Governor Richardson took office

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today praised the New Mexico Film Office and the state's globally competitive film industry incentives for landing an unprecedented 25 films in two years.

"New Mexico is now an international leader in the film industry, while creating hundreds of jobs and generating \$162 million in new revenue for state and local economies," Governor Bill Richardson said. "During the next session we will push for more incentives in order to expand our position of leadership and remain ahead of states like Utah and Louisiana which, having seen our successes, are aggressively competing with us for production dollars."

Under the leadership of the Film Office and Director Lisa Strout, nine feature film or television productions were shot in New Mexico during 2004, and three more are currently in preproduction. The economic impact from these films was felt statewide with films shoots in Las Cruces (*Rx* and *Raven*), Clovis and Portales (*Believe in Me* and *Raven*), Rio Rancho (*Dreamland* and *Cruel World* formerly *The Experiment*), Santa Fe (*The Longest Yard*, *In From the Night* and *Raven*), and Albuquerque (*Rx*, *Nothing But Life* formerly *Life in Las Vegas*, *Raven*, *In From the Night*, and *Wildfire*.)

The three films currently in pre-production include the currently untitled Warner Brothers film, directed by Niki Caro ("Whale Rider") and starring three Academy Award Winning

actresses: Charlize Theron, Sissy Spacek and Francis McDormand that is set to film in Silver City, “First Snow”, a story that takes place entirely in Albuquerque, and “In to the West”, which is a series of three films that are set to shoot in Northern New Mexico.

In the last two years the local film crews have grown from less than 100 to more than 600 members. New Mexico now has 3.5 film crews and is actively training more through the Governor’s Film Technician Training Program, which he introduced earlier this year.

In the upcoming legislative session, new initiatives are being proposed to maintain New Mexico’s competitive edge with states such as Utah and Louisiana, including an expansion of the 15% tax rebate to include post-production and continued funding for the Film Workforce Training Program.

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