



Governor Bill Richardson Announces Major Paramount Motion Picture Will Shoot in New Mexico

Remake of “The Longest Yard” will star Adam Sandler, Burt Reynolds, and Chris Rock, and bring jobs and business to the state

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SANTA FE, NM - Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Paramount Studios has chosen New Mexico as the location for filming the remake of **The Longest Yard**. Adam Sandler, Chris Rock and Burt Reynolds are expected to star in the production.

“Our efforts to increase film and television production in New Mexico and make the state a major media center continue to pay off,” said Governor Richardson. “Once again, our incentives, our qualified workforce, and the beauty and culture of New Mexico have beat out formidable competition. This movie won’t be shot in another state, or in Canada, or in Europe- it will be shot right here.”

Last fall, Governor Richardson went to Los Angeles to promote New Mexico’s film industry to top motion picture executives, including Sheri Lansing, head of Paramount Studios. The Governor explained the advantages of making films in New Mexico and urged Ms. Lansing and other film executives to consider locating upcoming productions in New Mexico.

“This film was won and lost several times during fierce competition with Hawaii and Illinois. To succeed took a strong team effort from many state departments - Economic Development, Corrections, General Services Department, Tourism and of course, the Governor,” said Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans.

The film will spend approximately eight weeks in preproduction readying “Old Main”, the old state penitentiary building in Santa Fe, and another four to five weeks filming. During preproduction, Paramount will be creating a new façade for the exterior of the prison.

“We looked at prison locations across the country. We are delighted to have chosen New Mexico, not only for artistic reasons, but also for the important financial incentives offered by the state. Together they created a winning package,” said Barry Bernardi, line producer of **The Longest Yard**.

“I’ve been told by many producers that New Mexico has the best financial incentives in the country for filmmakers. In addition, we offer an incredible array of scenic backdrops and locations. We have world-class film crews plus a governor and state that rolls out the red carpet for filmmakers. It’s a winning combination,” said Lisa Strout, Acting Director of the New Mexico Film Office.

The film is being directed by Pete Segal, whose directing credits include *50 First Dates* with Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, *"Anger Management"* with Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson, *"Nuttty Professor II: The Klumps"* with Eddie Murphy, and *"Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult."* Adam Sandler’s credits include: *"50 First Dates"*, *"Anger Management"*, *"Big Daddy"*, *"The Wedding Singer"*, and *"Happy Gilmore"*. Chris Rock’s credits include *"Head of State"*, *"Nurse Betty"*, and *"Sergeant Bilko"*. Casting also includes Burt Reynolds, who starred in the original 1974 version of **The Longest Yard**, which was filmed at Georgia State Penitentiary.

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