



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

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2005-2006 Press Releases

Exhibit at Capitol Showcases Economic Impact of Connecticut's Film, Television and Commercials

HARTFORD, Conn. (February 1, 2006) – Beginning today, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, through its Film Division, presents an exhibit highlighting the impact of film, television and commercials on the state's economy. Connecticut's film, television and commercial production industries collectively support 8,500 jobs and generate almost \$2 billion in economic return. These industries promote Connecticut and contribute to the state's \$10 billion tourism industry, which supports more than 145,000 jobs.

The month-long exhibit, located in the gallery space connecting the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building, at 210 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, features nearly 20 film, television and commercial related posters depicting productions shot in Connecticut. Interspersed between the posters is economic impact data, including dollars spent in Connecticut and jobs created.

The exhibit demonstrates that Connecticut has a long history of filmmaking activity. *Mystic Pizza*, filmed in 1987 in the Mystic Country tourism district, brought with it more than 80 jobs and contributed more than \$2 million to the state. Moreover, tourists continue to flock to the famous pizza shop that inspired the movie. Likewise, Ang Lee's *The Ice Storm*, filmed in 1995 in Fairfield County, resulted in an economic impact of almost \$2.3 million and a workforce of more than 360 people who lived and worked in New Canaan and Greenwich throughout the life of the project.

"The public is unaware of the breadth and quality of production activity that occurs in their own backyard," observed Jennifer Aniskovich, executive director, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. "Producers select Connecticut for its diverse locations, world-class production facilities and well-trained crew.

"Connecticut is also home to a growing number of emerging filmmakers as evidenced by Synthetic Cinemas' production of *Predator Island*, added Aniskovich. "This film, which went directly to video, was available in Blockbuster Video outlets throughout the state. The film, shot entirely within the state, created jobs exclusively for Connecticut crew and actors."

"Young filmmakers of today, like Stafford Springs resident Roger Ingraham, whose film *Moonshine* was recently screened at the Sundance Film Festival, can become the 'Frank Oz' of tomorrow, remarked Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Film Director, Heidi Hamilton. "Mr. Oz, a Connecticut resident and director of *The Stepford Wives*, starring Nicole Kidman, managed a crew and staff of more than 500 individuals, some of whom resided in

Connecticut.

"Living and working in Connecticut is the goal of many directors, producers and crew who currently reside in Connecticut, but travel to states like New York with more lucrative production opportunities, noted Hamilton. "This exhibit demonstrates that with the right combination of film incentives, Connecticut's film industry can continue to grow and prosper while contributing to the state's economy."

The exhibit, sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, runs through February 27, 2006. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the regular Legislative Office Building business hours Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism brings together tourism, film, history and the arts. Its mission is to preserve and promote Connecticut's cultural and tourism assets in order to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the state. The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism is located at One Financial Plaza, 755 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06103.

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Editor's Note: A photo of the exhibit referenced in the press release is available to run with the story. Please contact Suzette Gibson at suzetteg@mdcads.com or (203) 624-4151 ext. 29 if you are interested.

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