

TRAVEL SUMMARY & REPORT

Rich Moskal

Director, Film Office

Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events

LOCATION: Los Angeles

DATES: Dec. 11-14, 2012

DELEGATION: Rich Moskal, Director, Chicago Film Office
Betsy Steinberg, Director, Illinois Film Office
Jeff Crabtree, President, Illinois Production Alliance
Mark Hogan, Business Agent, IATSE Studio Mechanics Local 476
John Coli Jr., Vice President, Teamsters Local 727

PURPOSE: Meetings with film studio executives, independent producers and television production companies to pitch Chicago as a location for upcoming films, pilots and series.

SUMMARY: Chicago's desirability as a destination among producers and production executives remains very high. The quality of local crew, locations and government cooperation were unanimously praised and considered easy to work with. The cost of labor, vendors, permits and services are seen as competitive and affordable. Government tax incentives, however, remain the single most decisive factor in determining where features and television productions locate. Only a select few directors/producers have the influence to choose a location based solely on creative preferences. The vast majority of productions factor the incentives offered by competing states and countries. The Illinois incentive is ranked as sixth in North America, and is often out-bid by Louisiana, Georgia, New York, Ontario and British Columbia.

MEETINGS: **Daniel Bubiecki & Lara Alamedine**
Producers, Allegiance Theater Productions (indie features)

NOTES: \$2 million feature "Relanxious" to film in Chicago spring 2013, pending lead actor availability; director is Chicago native Chris Storer.

Albert Berger

Producer, Bona Fide Productions (indie features)

NOTES: Seeking to option novels and screenplays by Chicago writers for development – Berger is Chicago native who produced "Ice Harvest" (Harold Ramis, John Cusack)

Kirk D'Amico

President & CEO, Myraid Entertainment (indie features)

NOTES: Funding "Relanxious" and a slate of mid-range budget features in 2013; looking to establish a multi-picture relationship with Chicago, assuming all goes well with budgeting and production of "Relanxious."

Mark Scoon, Stephen Carroll, Kevin Bennet
VP's Production, Warner Bros Pictures & Television

NOTES: "Jupiter Ascending" to shoot in Chicago summer 2013; "Shameless" to return for additional episodes in fall 2013; expressed interest in possible increases to the current Illinois tax credit – other states (Louisiana, Georgia and New York) are more competitive, covering "above the line" and out-of-state expenditures.

Betsy Meger
VP Feature Production, Paramount Pictures

NOTES: "Transformers 4" to shoot in Chicago fall 2013; frequently budget for New York due to more favorable incentive program.

Donna Sloan & Mark Pedante
VP Feature Production & Finance, Lionsgate

NOTES: \$60 million feature "Divergent" to be filmed its entirety in Chicago April-June 2013 – this is the first Lionsgate feature to shoot in Chicago and the first in a potential three picture franchise; large set construction at Cinespace, hiring approximately 350 local crew and talent, estimated local spend of \$35 million; Lionsgate Television gave Chicago high marks – the series "Boss" and came in under budget both of its two seasons.

Dan Brickman
VP Production, Fox Television Studios

NOTES: Budgeting Chicago for upcoming pilot season (spring 2013); awaiting decision by USA Network to pick-up "Sirens" pilot as a series; will compare to the cost of shooting in Atlanta, New Orleans and Toronto.

Glenn Gainor
EVP Feature Production, Sony Pictures

NOTES: content driving his location decisions for larger budget features – script, production values, director preferences, etc; nothing currently scripted for Chicago.

Ed Lammi
VP Production, Sony Pictures Television

NOTES: will be budgeting Chicago for upcoming pilot season; previously brought the series "Mob Doctor," "Beast" and "Playboy Club" to Chicago.

Jim Sharpe and Craig Hill
VP Production, 20th Century Fox Television

NOTES: will be budgeting Chicago for upcoming pilot season; previously brought the series "Chicago Code" and "Prison Break"

Jerry DiCanio
EVP Production, Universal Television

NOTES: Currently shooting "Chicago Fire" here; very pleased with Chicago as production center and cooperation from City of Chicago; strongly considering additional series here to amortize facility and equipment costs.

Mary Ann Hughes

VP Film & Television Production Planning, Disney Studios

NOTES: Feature production will always peruse states with higher incentives; more inclined to consider Chicago for television pilot and series production.

Greg French

VP Production, ABC Television Studios

NOTES: considering Chicago for pilot season; previously budgeted Chicago for other series, but chose to locate in states with larger incentives; impressed by our 2012 track record of four full-time series; willing to explore further.