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NEW YORK LOVES FILM ROADSHOW CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Filmmaker Roundtables Prove Popular Across New York State

The Governor's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development (MPTV) returned to the Woodstock Film Festival this weekend to present the *New York Loves Film Roadshow*, one year after launching at the 2013 Woodstock Festival. Since the initial event, there have been 30 *New York Loves Film Roadshows* held throughout all ten regions of the state. The *New York Loves Film Roadshow* is a 90-minute, face-to-face conversation between filmmakers, production support service professionals, small business owners, post-production providers and New York State government representatives.

"The *New York Loves Film Roadshow* experienced an enthusiastic reception at every stop over the last year and the recent return to Woodstock was met with an excitement from local filmmakers that will continue as the roadshow makes stops in every corner of New York State," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "The workshop's one-on-one approach provides a unique public service for filmmakers and students to learn about film production in the Empire State, and is a testament to our commitment to the fast-growing film and entertainment industry that is helping to create thousands jobs.

The *New York Loves Film Roadshow* enables participants to engage in a free-flowing exchange of ideas related to every aspect of filmmaking in New York. Over the past year, *Roadshows* have been held in conjunction with film festivals like Woodstock, the American Black Film Festival, the Indian Film Festival and the Long Island International Film Expo; at production facilities such as Umbra Studios in Newburgh, WNED Studios Buffalo and Grumman Studios on Long Island; and on college campuses that included Rochester Institute of Technology, Skidmore, SUNY Albany, Tompkins Cortland Community College and St. Lawrence University. *New York Loves Film Roadshow* attendees have ranged from soundstage owners to film archivists, from experienced producers credited with multiple feature films to film students who want to launch and build long term careers in New York State.

"The *New York Loves Film Roadshow* was so popular last year we asked the Governor's Film Office to come back and do it again in 2014," said Meira Blaustein, co-founder and Executive Director of the Woodstock Film Festival. "Producers really appreciate the kind of direct,

personal connection they get with the team from New York State that these workshops offer them. We're very pleased to have the Roadshow here again to be a part of the Woodstock Film Festival."

"One of the most valuable things we've seen in these *New York Loves Film Roadshows* is a new sense of identity among the participants, a recognition of themselves as being part of a local as well as a statewide film community," said Gigi Semone, Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Motion Picture and Television Development. "The act of bringing them together to share ideas and concerns, and showing them that we at the Governor's New York State film office are here to support them, has helped *New York Loves Film Roadshow* participants connect with people and resources to which they might never have otherwise had access."

New York State's film students have been particularly responsive and inspired by the program. For film students in attendance at SUNY Oneonta and Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3), the *New York Loves Film Roadshow* was the birthplace of a new statewide organization that launches officially this December – the New York Film Students Alliance (NYFSA), which will, connect film students on campuses across the state. Another spin-off of the original event is the *New York Loves Film College Roadshow*, a roundtable particularly focused on helping provide advice and direction to student filmmakers on issues related to location scouting, physical production, working with local authorities, etc. The *New York Loves Film College Roadshow* will have completed six seminars by the end of the Fall 2014 semester.

"Growing up in Oneonta, I had no idea that there were opportunities to work in film and Television in Upstate New York," said Sarah Weigel, recent graduate of SUNY Oneonta and member of the New York Film Student Alliance steering committee. "My career dream is to work in location scouting for feature films and television and thanks to the Governor's film office visiting the SUNY Oneonta campus with their roadshow, I realized that there is a film industry right in my backyard. I am proud to have been on the NYFSA steering committee and look forward to all of the opportunities that will be created for students like me."

In another sign of the growing activity Upstate, four new film commissions are being established, with two already launched (North Country and Central New York regions) and two others currently in the process (Mohawk Valley and Capital District regions).

The *New York Loves Film Roadshow* is an ongoing program that will continue to engage film communities across the entire state and requests for a visiting roadshow can be made directly to the Governor's Office for Motion Picture and Television Development.

About the New York State Governor's Office for Motion Picture & Television Development

The New York State Governor's Office for Motion Picture & Television Development (MPTV), a division of Empire State Development (ESD), offers film, television and commercial productions and post production tax credits for qualified expenditures in New York State. The office also serves as a liaison between production companies and city and local governments, state agencies, a network of statewide contacts, local film offices and professional location scouts

and managers. For more information on filming in New York State or the Film Production and Post Production Tax Credit Programs, please visit www.nylovesfilm.com.

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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