



Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development

FEBRUARY 2015 E-NEWSLETTER

Big Night for New York Films at the Oscars

"Birdman" Leads the Way with Four Wins, Including Best Picture; Julianne Moore Takes Best Actress for "Still Alice"; Winning Projects Spent Over \$19 Million in the Empire State



Team Oscar from L-R: Chris Carmona, Kelly FitzGerald, Justin Craig, Patrick Walker, Rhianna Shaheen and Justin Floyd.

New York State won big at the 2015 Academy Awards. *Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*, which shot in New York City, took home the top prize, as well as the Oscar for Best Director (Alejandro G. Iñárritu), Best Original Screenplay (Iñárritu, Nicholas Jacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, and Armando Bo), and Best Cinematography (Emmanuel Lubezki, his second straight win). *Birdman's* four wins tied it with *The Grand Budapest Hotel* for the most awards of any film this year.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

Huge Year for Film in New York State: 2014 Sets Multiple Records

192 Applications to the Film Production Program Mean More Jobs and Investment Across the Board



The New York State Film Production Incentive Program had its fourth straight record-breaking year, with 192 projects applying to spend an estimated \$2.6 billion and hire over 162,000 people.

This represents a steady 6% increase over the previous record of 181 productions with an estimated spend of \$2.11 billion, set in 2013. Empire State Development set another record by issuing tax credits of \$462 million to 123 projects, which spent \$2.05 billion and hired over 144,000 people.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

With 3rd Party Auditing Launched, Film Office Looks Forward to Extending the Option to Post-production

In December 2014, Empire State Development (ESD) announced the launch of a third party auditing option for productions in the New York State Film Production Incentive Program. This option, which is voluntary, will improve and expedite the tax credit process for companies, while maintaining transparency and the rigorous review standards which characterize New York's incentive program.



**Empire State
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In addition to benefitting those productions which opt for third party audits, the introduction of third party auditing will help all applicants, from studio tent poles to low-

budget indies, including productions which utilize ESD's internal auditors, who will now have more time and flexibility in their application review process.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

Stony Brook Launches SUNY's First Ever Film MFA Program

Three-Year Graduate Program Will Train Next Generation of Empire State's Filmmakers; Online Open House for Prospective Students on Feb. 26

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently approved a Masters in Fine Arts film program at SUNY Stony Brook's Southampton campus - the first of its kind in the State University of New York system. The new program, which welcomes its first class in Fall 2015, will feature locations in both Southampton and Manhattan.

The 45-48 credit program will be overseen by Graduate Director Christine Vachon, co-founder of renowned indie production company Killer Films, whose credits include *Still Alice*, *Far From Heaven*, *Boys Don't Cry*, and HBO's *Mildred Pierce*.

To read the full story, [click here](#).



Graduate Director Christine Vachon, co-founder of NY-based Killer Films

FILM GOOD / DO GOOD: AbelCine

Providing Service, Equipment and Education for a Quarter-Century



AbelCine was founded in 1989 as a film camera service and repair company by brothers Pete and Rich Abel. Today, AbelCine has grown into one of the industry's most comprehensive sources for state-of-the-art production solutions, backed by a renowned technical support team. Throughout its progression, the company has shared its expertise with the production community and institutions of higher education.

From the beginning, customer service and technical support have been at the very heart of the services AbelCine offers. The company understands that today's technological advancements in imaging, communication and content delivery are transforming traditional television and entertainment models. This creates the need for more high-quality content in the new media space, and AbelCine continues to adjust its role and product offerings to meet this need, bringing technology, support and education together in a cohesive way.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

TALENT SPOTLIGHT: Yana Collins Lehman

Managing Director, Trevanna Post; Founder & Chairman, Post New York Alliance

Yana Collins Lehman started out on the West Coast (she grew up in Northern California and attended the University of California in Santa Barbara) but once she came East to attend graduate school at Columbia University, she never looked back.

After stints working with indie stalwarts like Cary Woods and Andrew Karpen at Independent Pictures and John Sloss at Sloss Law Company, she became convinced that post-production was the area she wanted to specialize in.



To read the full story, [click here](#).

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: New York's Historical Village Museums

Preserving New York's Past



Historic Richmond Town on Staten Island.

The State of New York is home to over a dozen eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century historical villages and museums, providing film and TV productions with a wide array of location options that allow them to circumvent the need to build period sets. These historical villages & museums stretch from the Buffalo/Niagara Region all the way to Long Island.

One of these is the Genesee Country Village & Museum, the third largest open air museum in the United States and the largest within the state of New York. Its 700 acres of forest, fields, and streams surround a recreated village featuring 68 relocated structures from around Western New York.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

STUDIO SPOTLIGHT: East of Hollywood NY



The Brooklyn based soundstage East of Hollywood NY was founded ten years ago, in a facility that originally functioned as a machinery company that bought and sold industrial machinery around the world. Despite its beginnings, you will not find any of these industrial parts in the buildings that now host commercials, film and television productions.

"The buildings that house the machinery company were owned by Louis Srybnik, who to this day still owns what has become East of Hollywood," says Lucille Ascanio, the current General Manager of East of Hollywood. "The one thing Srybnik knew was that the facility had to reinvent itself." Ascanio also assisted in the development of East of Hollywood NY.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: February 2015 - March 2015

Film Festivals & Events

Film Comment Selects - Feb. 20 - March 1, 2015

Winter Film Awards Independent Film Festival - Feb. 25-28, 2015

New York International Children's Film Festival - Feb. 27 - March 22, 2015

First Time Fest - March 5-9, 2015

For more information on upcoming film festivals & events, click [here](#).



TV Premieres & Film Releases

The Slap - February 12, 2015 at 8pm on NBC

Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary - February 15, 2015 at 8pm on NBC

The Jack and Triumph Show - February 20, 2015 at 11:30pm - Adultswim

The Following - Season 3 - March 2, 2015 at 8pm - FOX

For a list of more upcoming TV & film premieres, click [here](#).

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