



NY ♥ FILM NEWSLETTER

NYS Governor's Office for Motion Picture & Television Development

AUGUST 2013

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES RECORD POST-PRODUCTIONS GAINS IN NEW YORK STATE

Post production companies in New York say phones have been ringing off the hook since strengthened New York State post-production incentives took effect last year.

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams released new data showing post-production business is undergoing unprecedented growth in New York State. The data, compiled by the Post New York Alliance, shows post-production hiring is up by 25 percent on average, with 173 new hires since this time last year. It is estimated that the uptick in new post-production business will generate nearly \$70 million in new spending in the State. In the last year alone, post-production companies reported spending nearly \$18 million to expand and purchase new equipment to accommodate the increase in business demand. Since taking effect:

- 61 productions have applied for post-production work in New York - more than triple the number of applications received during a two-year period under the previous tax credit;
- Seven post-production companies have established new operations, including three Upstate; at least two New York post-production companies have significantly expanded their operations; and
- Revenue has increased, on average, by 31 percent for participating post-production companies in New York.

The post production incentive is part of the overall New York State film tax credit program and is designed specifically for productions filmed anywhere in the world that choose to do their post production in New York State. Specifically, \$7 million of the annual \$420 million tax credit is set aside each year for this post production incentive. Starting in 2015, this post production allocation will increase to \$25 million each year.

[Read more here.](#)

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL WELCOMES 'AMERICA'S GOT TALENT' TO ITS NEW HOME WITH THE PREMIERE OF SEASON 8

Lured to New York State by its enhanced production tax incentives, NBC's [America's Got Talent](#) (AGT) aired its first live performance from the iconic Radio City Music Hall stage on Tuesday, July 23rd to thunderous applause and enthusiasm from New Yorkers and tourists alike. With Radio City's nearly 6,000 seats and a place in the history books, AGT had found itself a new home, and it's a match made in variety show heaven.



UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS IN NEW YORK STATE



There is always plenty to do in New York State. Here is a list of some upcoming industry events throughout the State.

[Full a list of events here.](#)

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Let New York State Work for You.

Empire State Development



In April, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the show's relocation from New Jersey to New York- the news coming on the heels of changes announced to the New York State Film Production Credit Program as a result of the NYS 2013-2014 Budget, which includes a relocation provision to attract television shows that had been produced elsewhere for five years or more.

Without the assistance provided by the enhancement of the state's popular incentive program, NBCUniversal would not have been able to consider the move. The tax credit, serving as the catalyst for such large scale relocation, illustrates the power and economic benefits of the state program. [Read more here.](#)

TELEVISION AT EVERY TURN: PRODUCTION REACHES NEW HIGH THANKS TO TAX CREDIT

**INCENTIVE DRAWS FIRST FOREIGN SERIES TO NEW YORK
CREATIVE PRAISE TO THE TUNE OF 81 EMMY NOMINATIONS FOR
SHOWS IN THE TAX PROGRAM**

TV lovers rejoice! Television production in New York is increasing at a dizzying pace as filmmakers not only take advantage of the healthy and stable incentive, but continue to draw creative inspiration for their stories from the unique character and energy of New York.

Sixteen television series are currently in production in New York. From returning favorites like *Girls*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *America's Got Talent*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *White Collar*, *The Carrie Diaries*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Elementary*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Following*, and *The Good Wife* to exciting new programming like *Us & Them*, *The Michael J. Fox Show*, *Hostages*, *Taxi Brooklyn*, and *The Blacklist*, sound stages and local businesses are welcoming talent and crew with open arms. A production slate this packed translates into an extraordinary economic footprint. These currently-filming series alone create over 39,000 jobs and generate more than \$735 million in spending in New York State. From hair and make-up to grips, stage hands and local bagel shops, New Yorkers are working, and they're doing so in a thriving climate. [Read more here.](#)



**13th ANNUAL ROCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL WELCOMES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ROBERT J. DUFFY**



On Monday, July 22, Lieutenant Governor Robert J. Duffy was on hand at the Dryden Theatre to deliver remarks at the 13th Annual Rochester Jewish Film Festival (RJFF). The Lieutenant Governor also introduced *Koch*, a film about three-time New York City Mayor (1978-1989) Ed Koch, which offers an intriguing view of the trials and tribulations one of the nation's most famous mayors.

Duffy commented that when he was mayor of Rochester, he hosted Mayor Koch in his office and that it was an honor to be part of the festival. He remarked, "It's been a great festival so far. It's a big part of our arts and culture in Rochester and this community, and just to be asked to be a part of it, I consider it an honor. [Read more here.](#)

New York State's chief economic development agency. [Learn More Here.](#)



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**MEET THE TEAM: NORA BROWN & KARL GOLDSMITH
ROCHESTER/FINGER LAKES FILM & VIDEO OFFICE**

"WE SPEAK FILM"



Nora Brown

No question, New York's highly successful tax credit program draws filmmakers to the Empire State from all over the world. But that's not the Empire State's only big attraction; there are also film offices across the State that have dedicated teams whose skills and expertise help make productions run smoothly.

"We speak film," says Nora Brown, Executive Director of the **Rochester/Finger Lakes**

Film & Video Office.

"Producers and location managers have a level of comfort when they speak with our office because we speak their language and we speak it well." Nora's long career in the production industry-starting as a production assistant and working her way through the ranks in film, commercial and music video production-gives her a first-hand understanding of the rigorous demands of production. Deputy Director, Karl Goldsmith, who also has a long career in production in New York City before landing in the camera department working with high-profile cinematographers on features, commercials, industrials and music videos, is well versed in the challenges that filmmakers face. It's the Rochester team's extensive experience in the trenches that affords visiting productions a higher level of service and results in film crews returning to the region. **[Read more here.](#)**



Karl Goldsmith

STUDIO SPOTLIGHT: UMBRA STUDIOS

NEWBURGH, NY

Located 50 miles north of New York City in the picturesque Hudson Valley, **Umbra Studios** of Newburgh has a 16,000 square foot, fully soundproofed, column-free soundstage with a permanent grid; 6,000 square feet of scenic/construction space; and a 1,500 square foot cyclorama wall. Not to mention 4,000 square feet of office space, wardrobe rooms, green rooms, make-up areas, dressing rooms, a screening room for watching dailies and a growing inventory of in-house lighting equipment. The growth is not over yet; Umbra has another even larger space, 20,000 square foot column free, that's in the process of being converted.

What inspired Umbra's visionary owner, Ted Doering, to build such an impressive state of the art production facility in the historic city of Newburgh?

Doering, who owns several other properties in the city, including the mammoth Motorcyclepedia Museum- one of the largest museums of antique motorcycles and cycling memorabilia in the world- says he backed into the business. "I was involved in a couple of small shoots at the Motorcyclepedia, and I kept meeting people who live here in the area who work in the film business who were commuting to stages in Brooklyn and Queens. They all started telling me they'd much rather be able to work up here in the Hudson Valley." **[Read more here.](#)**



Umbra Studios Sound Stage

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN WEEKS

**VISITING PROFESSOR OF VISUAL EFFECTS,
DAEMEN COLLEGE**



Susan Weeks' career in the art and technology of visual effects has taken her around the world - London, Australia, Vancouver, Los Angeles - and now, Buffalo!

Weeks recently came on board as Visiting Professor of Visual Effects at Daemen College's International Center of Excellence in Animation (ICEA) in Buffalo. She is helping students build skills with esoteric names like 'matchmoving', 'rotoscoping' and 'paint and rig removal' as part of the ICEA's new Certificate in Visual Effects Program designed to give students the tools they need to take advantage of the rapidly growing demand for VFX artists in the film, television and commercial industries. "Our students are learning industry specific skills and software which train them for jobs that are currently getting outsourced to India and China," says Weeks. "Training local artists here in Buffalo presents a great opportunity because so many companies want to keep those jobs here in the U.S." [Read more here.](#)

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