

NY ♥ FILM NEWSLETTER

NYS Governor's Office for Motion Picture & Television Development

SEPTEMBER 2013

ESD PRESIDENT, CEO & COMMISSIONER KENNETH ADAMS CONTINUES THE CONVERSATION WITH THE POST-PRODUCTION COMMUNITY

More than 40 post-production executives met with Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams on September 11th to discuss ways to continue the extraordinary growth of the post-production industry in the Empire State.



The discussions centered on how the New York State's economic development programs can help post-production companies further expand and increase their businesses. These programs include the New York State Post-Production Credit program, Start-Up NY, Excelsior Jobs Program, JDA Loan Program, Linked Deposit Program, Innovate NY Fund, and the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. For more information on these programs, visit: <http://www.esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms.html>.

It has been an incredible year for New York State's post-production community. Last summer, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that increased the tax credit to 30% for productions that film outside of New York State and come here to do their post. Following up on that victory, the Governor championed the extension (through 2019) of the overall film tax credit incentive this spring, making it easier to post in New York by lowering critical restrictions. ESD recently released job numbers and economic data, collected by The Post New York Alliance on how these two pieces of legislation have impacted our community--demonstrating that post-production is booming in New York State. [Read more here.](#)

BIG NEWS FROM CINE MAGIC: BIG AS IN 48,000 SQUARE FEET

Cine Magic is proud to announce the opening of the newest addition to their growing inventory of soundstage facilities -- Cine Magic East River Studios. Situated on the waterfront of an entire city block in Greenpoint, Brooklyn (the existing Cine Magic Riverfront stages are in nearby Williamsburg), the newest Cine Magic location provides the industry with two, side-by-side soundstages of 27,750 and 20,500 square feet, with the capability of combining into a single 48,000 square foot soundstage.



With construction nearly complete, Cinemax has already secured the entire new facility for their new TV series, The Knick, which stars Clive Owen and is directed by Stephen Soderbergh. 20th Century Fox filmed Black Nativity (starring Forrest Whittaker and Mary J. Blige) at the premises earlier in the year. [Read more here.](#)

KYLE MCCARTHY:

A STARRING ROLE FOR GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL

According to Travel & Leisure magazine, Grand Central Terminal is "the world's sixth most visited tourist attraction" with nearly 22 million annual visitors gazing at the magnificent, astronomically themed ceiling. From the iconic clock to the 67 train tracks, 750,000 people pass through this major transportation hub every day and much fanfare was made over its 100th birthday this past February with BBC news magazine calling it "the world's loveliest station".

In addition to being the star of New York City, Grand Central Terminal has also "starred" in many films, television shows and commercials -- holding its own on the silver screen

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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with its spectacular beaux arts style and endless majestic marble. Filmmakers may be daunted by the idea of filming in the terminal with the relentless sea of commuter traffic, but there is a gatekeeper in place who makes it happen seamlessly. [Read more here.](#)

MEET THE TEAM: MICHELLE STARK BRINGING FILM, ART, CULTURE AND AWARENESS TO LONG ISLAND'S EAST END

Michelle Isabelle-Stark, Director of Suffolk County's Office of Film & Cultural Affairs, not only facilitates requests for film and television production shoots, she also administers \$1 million in competitive cultural grants, writes grants to assist Suffolk County's cultural projects, and represents the county on the Board of the Long Island Visitors & Convention Bureau.



After a decade as director, Stark is always looking for new ways to advance the region's cultural agenda and spur economic growth. "A great deal of what I do is look for opportunities to incorporate arts, culture and film into viable economic development platforms," Stark said.

There is Operation Downtown for projects that stimulate downtown economic development, and the Path Through History, a \$100K grant through the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, for programs that promote statewide heritage tourism in eastern Long Island - one of which goes towards the creation of webisodes with scripted content that help make history interesting. [Read more here.](#)

ROB STRIEM: LOCATION IS EVERYTHING



Rob Striem has lived in New York his whole life, mostly in Brooklyn, and has built a prolific career over the past two decades in the film business. He began as an office production assistant where on his third day on the job, the locations manager needed help and Rob stepped up to the plate. The rest is history as they say, and Striem has now been credited on over 30 projects in New York. For the last 15 years, he has been a department head and manages location teams that range from 5 to 15 people.

Striem loves his work because, he says, "Every project is different. It is never boring. Every day is a new adventure and you never know what to expect. I think of looking at a location as though I am looking at it through a lens." He especially loves working on feature films because he feels as if, "My efforts live on as a legacy for what I put into it. It's interesting when a location ends up driving the story and results in presenting a situation that was not thought of originally." [Read more here.](#)

GUEST AUTHOR MIKE CHARLES: MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS & SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR THE LIRR SHARES TALES OF THE TRAINS IN FILM

North America's busiest commuter railroad is also a silver screen and small screen production favorite. With more than 275,000 daily commuters and customers, the [MTA Long Island Rail Road's \(LIRR\)](#) trains and facilities have long been cast showing crowded public transit. The LIRR, however, has a long and very versatile film background. Chartered in 1834 by the New York State Legislature, the railroad's original purpose was part of a rail link for a boat-rail route from Virginia to Boston. The LIRR-New England trunk line was successful for a few years but fell into bankruptcy when an all-rail route was built to Boston in the late 1840's. Eventually, in order to survive as a business, the LIRR expanded and extended its routes through Nassau and Suffolk Counties absorbing several other privately owned railroads that had cropped up along the way. The LIRR became the transit "heart and soul" of Long Island and began its so-called career in motion pictures.



It wasn't long before the film industry discovered that the LIRR was truly a "sound stage" that worked, even for silent films. There are unconfirmed reports that in 1914 a famous scene from "The Perils of Pauline" was filmed on the LIRR's Manhasset Viaduct, an 80-foot tall railroad bridge over wetlands on the Port Washington Branch that opened in 1895. It is said that the damsel in distress was tied to the tracks by the mustachioed villain, escaping before the train arrives. In more recent years LIRR trains and stations have hosted a number of commercial film related ventures, including major movies, television productions and commercial

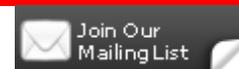
shoots. [Read more here.](#)



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