

NY FILM NEWSLETTER

NYS Governor's Office for Motion Picture & Television
Development

DECEMBER 2013

KENNETH ADAMS GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT BLOOMBERG INTERNATIONAL FILM & TV FINANCE SUMMIT

Thriving Film Production in New York State is Focus

 Empire State Development

On December 2, Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams delivered the keynote address at the Bloomberg BNA 13th Annual International Film & TV Finance Summit in New York City, and highlighted the strong state of the New York State film industry under Governor Cuomo's leadership.

The Annual International Film & TV Finance Summit provides those in the industry the opportunity to get the latest information on obtaining finance and tax incentives for independent and studio film production, distribution and marketing in today's marketplace. The two-day event offered panel discussions on many topics including Funding Independent Bonded Film Projects \$2.5M+, Latest Developments in Funding TV & Web Productions, Production Incentives and Crowd Funding. [Read more here.](#)

STEINER STUDIOS EXPANSION AT BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

New York State Tax Credit Major Driver of Jobs and Economic Growth

Steiner Studios, the largest film studio on the east coast, is moving forward with Phase III of its transformational Media Campus project at the Brooklyn Navy Yard thanks to increasing support from New York State. Through Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative, the State is increasing its support of the project by \$6.3 million, bringing total State assistance for Phase III to \$11.3 million.

 STEINER
STUDIOS

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams made the announcement during a tour of economic development projects supported by the New York City Regional Economic Development Council, one of the ten Regional Economic Development Councils created by Governor Cuomo. [Read more here.](#)

AN IMPRESSIVE 28 NOMINATIONS FROM GOLDEN GLOBE AND SAG AWARDS FOR NEW YORK STATE PRODUCTION

New York State Tax Credit Program Draws Award-Winning Creative Talent

As the year winds down and the major Film/TV



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 list of events here.](#)

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Let New York State Work for
You.

 Empire State Development

awards season heats up, New York State is coming on strong. Ten New York-based productions received 17 nominations for the 2014 Golden Globe Annual Awards, while six New York-based productions earned 11 nominations for 2014 SAG Awards. Both television and feature films are well represented in the 13 New York-based productions, all of which participate in the State's highly successful Film Tax Credit program.



Phil Spector, Blue Jasmine, and Nurse Jackie earned both Golden Globe and SAG Awards nominations, while Inside Llewyn Davis and The Good Wife led the Empire State by earning three Golden Globe nominations each, as did The Butler by earning three SAG nominations. [Read more here.](#)

BACK(LOT) TO THE FUTURE!

Kaufman Astoria Studios Opens Hollywood-style Backlot in Queens



Rendering Photo Credit:
Rockwell Group

With a flourish of the scissors, a group of dignitaries led by Senator Charles Schumer snipped a red ribbon on a sunny December afternoon to ceremonially open New York City's first movie backlot at the historic Kaufman Astoria Studios in Astoria, Queens. The 34,800-square-foot backlot will allow productions to construct temporary outdoor sets and shoot exterior and special effects shots within the Kaufman Astoria campus, current home to hit shows Nurse Jackie, Orange is the New Black, streamed on Netflix, and Amazon's Alpha House. Recent feature films shot at Kaufman Astoria include The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, The Bourne Legacy and Men In Black 3. [Read more here.](#)

20/20/20 AT STONYBROOK UNIVERSITY: GO DIGITAL

Christine Vachon and Killer Films Train New York State Filmmakers of Tomorrow



Christine Vachon & Pamela
Koffler from Killer Films

Christine Vachon and Pamela Koffler of [Killer Films](#) have partnered with Southampton Arts ([Stony Brook University's Graduate Arts Programs in Manhattan and Southampton](#)) and have launched a new graduate level digital filmmaking program called [20/20/20](#). The course sequence addresses the reality of the film business today by training the filmmakers of tomorrow as expert storytellers with the grit and imagination to reach their audiences in platform-agnostic ways. The program will train graduates who know how to get a movie

made, how to make it right, how to get it seen, and to live to tell about it-and how to survive to do it all over again and again, and again, and again. [Read more here.](#)

FILM KUDOS FOR ALBANY

Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight Producer Sings Praises for the Capital Region



Scott Ferguson, Producer
HBO Films Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight

HBO Films Producer Scott Ferguson* wanted to let the Capital Region know how grateful he was for the extensive support he received while filming Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight there in 2012. Since he was unable to attend a

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



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packed screening of the film at Albany's Palace Theatre on December 6, Ferguson taped a [video recorded message](#) from the set of *The Normal Heart*, his latest production shooting in New York.

Take a peek at what Ferguson had to say about his experience shooting in Upstate New York. For more information on filming in the Capital Region, visit [FilmAlbany](#). [Read more here.](#)

YOU WANT PARKS? WE GOT PARKS.

Seven Location Gems - New York State Parks in New York City



Gantry Plaza State Park

When the script for *Boardwalk Empire* called for a historic farmhouse and a barn in a rural woody setting, the show's producers didn't imagine they could pull off bucolic in the middle of New York City. As it turned out, they could. For the past two years *Boardwalk Empire* has been using the Gericke Farmhouse in Clay Pit Ponds State Park on Staten Island as the perfect isolated rural setting for Nucky Thompson and his crew of Roaring Twenties bootleggers.

"It was an amazing find, right out of the blue," said *Boardwalk Empire* producer Joe Iberti. "To find such a great rural location in New York City was a great surprise." [Read more here.](#)

MEET THE TEAM: WESTERN NEW YORK

Tim Clark, Buffalo/Niagara Film Commissioner

"There is no friendlier place on the planet to shoot a film, because the community reaction and acceptance of the industry in Western New York is unparalleled," says Buffalo/Niagara Film Commissioner Tim Clark.



Tim Clark

Clark shares the enthusiasm for film production with the community, the municipalities and the government officials of Western New York, and attributes this interest to the fact that in the eight years that he has been film commissioner, he has never felt any pushback from the public towards filming in the area. [Read more here.](#)

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

Film Friendly Subway Set Sees Spike in Production



If you are a regular visitor to Brooklyn Heights, you have probably walked past the [New York Transit Museum](#) (NYTM) many times not realizing what it was. Or, you may have actually tried to catch a train by going through its entrance because it looks like a subway station you would see on any street corner in New York City. However, this is the decommissioned Court Street station at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn and a popular museum that is nearing its 40th anniversary. [Read more here.](#)

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